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Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani joins haredim for a walk down Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday, after visiting a yeshiva in the area. (Brian Hender)

Kahalani visit to Rehov Bar-Ilan yeshiva cheered by haredim, slammed by police

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani's surprise visit to a yeshiva near Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday made him an instant hit with some haredim, but angered many on the Jerusalem police force.

chanted 'Nazis, Nazis,' at us and throwing stones," a senior police officer said. "We thought Kahalani was supposed to be on our side."

The visit to the Or Hatzafon Yeshiva came at the end of a relatively quiet day on Rehov Bar-Ilan, which for two months has been a weekly battle ground between haredim, who want the road closed on Shabbat, secular protesters and police.

A spokesman for area haredim praised the visit, as well as the minister's recent orders to Jerusalem police to stop stationing mounted policemen and water cannons at Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat.

"At the very same yeshiva Kahalani visited, haredim have been coming out every Shabbat

Kahalani got out of his car on Rehov Bar-Ilan, and after speaking briefly with Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit, left his police escorts

behind and accompanied several haredi leaders into the yeshiva, about half a block from the main road.

Haredim prevented policemen and most journalists from entering the crowded yeshiva. Police sources said Kahalani gave the order for the policemen escorting him to stay behind, before going inside.

To the cheers of the haredim in the yeshiva's crowded synagogue, Kahalani put on a black kippa and joined them in singing a Shabbat hymn.

BILL HUTMAN

Jordan suffers worst riots since 1989

Unrest flares up over bread price hike

KING Hussein of Jordan, confronted by the worst anti-state violence since 1989, went yesterday to the riot-torn city of Karak after suspending Parliament and vowing to crush unrest over bread price hikes.

Angry Jordanians battled security forces on the streets of Karak in a second day of protests against the International Monetary Fund-backed higher bread prices.

As night fell, Hussein arrived outside the ancient city in a motorcade and consulted with authorities at the local police headquarters, a senior official said. He had left Amman unannounced earlier in the day to visit centers rocked by riots on Friday and returned to the capital afterward.

Inside the city, beneath the towering Crusader castle, streets were quiet and largely deserted as a curfew announced over the main

News agencies KARAK, Jordan

mosque loudspeaker took hold. Some residents congregated around doorsteps but few ventured out.

Bayonet-carrying Interior Ministry soldiers, who were deployed after the announcement of the curfew, were withdrawn during the evening and replaced by regular soldiers, who remained in armored personnel carriers.

During his visit, Hussein was not accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti, the focus of the protests. The monarch had vowed earlier in the day to crush any riots triggered by the government's price increases.

The king had also dissolved the summer session of the elected lower house of Parliament, where the IMF-sanctioned bread price rise enacted on Tuesday had found little support.

While other parts of south

Jordan quieted yesterday, trouble erupted in Karak again.

Tear gas fired by police and dropped from army helicopters dispersed the large crowds, but clashes between security forces and protesters darting from alleys continued throughout the day.

Police sirens wailed across the hill-top city, 90 km southwest of Amman, as protesters used barrels and rocks to block armored cars. The army sent armored personnel carriers to smash through the barricades.

One crowd burned a building housing the Education Ministry, which had recently raised fees. Banks and government offices were again targets. Smoke from burning tires billowed into the sky, as army helicopters hovered low over the teeming town.

Despite the violence, there appeared to be few injuries. Reports by Karak residents of two deaths on Friday were firmly denied by the government.

Jordan's economic woes could threaten warm peace with Israel

TWO days of bread riots in Jordan are more of a reminder than a threat to King Hussein's government. When East Bankers who are usually the king's strongest supporters riot, attention must be paid. Jordan's internal stability has been constantly underestimated. Though his country is basically weak, Hussein has brilliantly assured its survival - and that of his regime - over many decades.

BACKGROUND BARRY RUBIN

His great secret has always been the strength of the East Bank ethnic groups: Beduin tribespeople, Jordan Valley peasants, and their descendants strongly loyal to the monarchy. Staffing the army, the intelligence services, and growing sectors of the educated elite, they

are suspicious of the degree to which the Palestinian majority shares their fidelity and interests.

Within Jordan, three potential threats to Hussein are always simmering under the surface: economic collapse, Palestinian nationalism, and Islamic revolutionaries. But Jordan's economic difficulties remain its most intractable domestic problem.

(Continued on Page 2)

Netanyahu meets Levy today in attempt to end rift

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy are expected to formally bury the hatchet this morning and appoint someone they both agree upon to head the steering committee for the Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Though today's meeting was scheduled late Thursday night, Levy still did not attend the weekly cabinet session on Friday. He had steadfastly boycotted all cabinet and ministerial forums for a fortnight to demonstrate his pique at being allegedly overlooked in diplomatic moves on the Palestinian front. But Levy's aides say his

SARAH HONIG

absence from Friday's session was due to technical problems, including jet lag. Levy had returned Thursday evening from a five-day private visit to the US.

The ice was broken by Netanyahu, who phoned Levy, expressing appreciation for Levy's contribution to the government and adding that he hoped they would cooperate to further its aims.

Netanyahu is expected to tell Levy today that the Foreign Ministry will be given an active role in all negotiations and that

Levy will be part of all decision-making forums.

In the Prime Minister's Office it was hoped last night that the meeting would offer Levy a face-saving way to back off from the political brink. Levy's aides were confident that the crisis would be resolved, but noted that "certain forces" among Netanyahu's aides might wish to sabotage the rapprochement.

Brig-Gen. (res.) David Agmon is most widely mentioned as the probably head of the new steering committee, although some sources said former chief of staff Dan Shomron might get the nod.

(Continued on Page 2)

Poll: Dole, Clinton almost tied

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republican presidential nominee Robert Dole is statistically tied with President Bill Clinton in a *Newsweek* poll conducted as the Republican National Convention came to a close.

Dole trails Clinton by only 2 percentage points - within the margin of error for the poll.

If the election were held now, Clinton would lead with 44 percent of the vote. Dole would receive 42 percent and the candidate nominated by Ross Perot's Reform Party would receive 3%, according to poll results.

A poll *Newsweek* conducted the previous week had Dole trailing Clinton by 20 percentage points.

The magazine said 933 registered voters were interviewed by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the latest poll - 465 of them on Thursday night, the day

Dole gave his speech accepting the Republican presidential nomination. The remaining 468 were interviewed Friday night. The overall margin of error was plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Fifty-six percent of those who watched Dole's nomination acceptance speech said they now have a more favorable view of him, the magazine said.

Thirty-five percent of all respondents said what they saw or heard about the speech gave them a more favorable impression. The magazine said 21 percent ended with a less favorable opinion.

"The Republican National Convention played an obvious role in heightening Dole's popularity," it said. "Other factors which are helping Dole include his choice of Jack Kemp as his vice-presidential running mate and Dole's tax cut proposal."

Commanders in dehydration case given suspended sentence

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A SPECIAL military court on Friday handed down a 90-day suspended sentence to Col. Amos Ben-Avraham and Capt. A., and issued a two-month suspended sentence to unit doctor Capt. Y., all of whom were convicted of causing the death by negligence of two soldiers who died of dehydration in 1992.

The prosecution had demanded a prison term and demotion for Ben-Avraham.

Senior army commanders were relieved with the sentences, and

believe it will put an end, at least for now, to the fear that harm will come to those who choose to take responsibility.

Yaron Bar-Dor, of Jerusalem, and Eran Ofer, of Afula, died of dehydration while on navigation exercises in the Negev as part of their training for Sayeret Matkal, the elite General Staff unit.

None of the three officers was demoted, with the tribunal saying this would have in effect ended the officers' military careers. But the president of the special court, Col. Mordechai Peled, dissented with the other two judges and sought a six-month suspended sentence for Ben-Avraham. A suspended sentence means

that if the officers are found guilty of causing death by negligence during a period of a year, they must serve their suspended prison terms. There is no fixed punishment for negligence and each case is apparently weighed on an individual basis.

"We see this as an acquittal of all the guilt that was dumped on Amos and the rest of the officers," said his father, David Ben-Avraham.

In his first interview on the matter since the May 1992 accident, Ben-Avraham said he accepted the decision. He said the exceptional step of resigning as commander of the Sayeret Matkal unit immediately following the accident was the responsible thing to do.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Kahalani reportedly planning shakeup of police brass

INTERNAL Security Minister Avidgor Kahalani plans a major shakeup of police brass over the next several months, which will include not extending Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz's term when it comes to an end in the spring, sources close to the minister said over the weekend.

BILL HUTMAN

Shahal, and Kahalani wants to make a new choice, they said. Hefetz, who was angered by Kahalani's decision, had strongly backed Mazor's appointment. Hefetz's three-year term ends in April, and although the minister has an option to extend it for a year, this is very unlikely, according to the sources.

Amnesty condemns torture by PA security forces

LONDON (Reuters) - Amnesty International issued a call on Friday for an end to torture in areas under the Palestinian Authority's control, as PA Chairman Yasser Arafat declared: "I will not tolerate torture."

Amnesty said a delegation had met victims of torture, lawyers, human rights groups and chiefs of branches of the security forces during a two-week visit to the PA in July and August.

all this has created a climate of fear where gross human rights abuses are becoming systematic," Amnesty said. It said that since July 1995 at least eight people had died in the custody of PA security services in circumstances where torture may have played a part in their deaths.

without fear of reprisals. "There should be no impunity for torturers." "Prolonged detention without trial should be ended." "Trials by state security courts should be ended."

Four killed in road accidents

FOUR persons were killed on the roads over the weekend, in separate accidents, and more than 20 were injured. A 19-year-old female soldier was killed while walking in the middle of the Acre-Nahariya highway, near Kibbutz Shomrat, early on Friday morning.

which they were riding hit the traffic median on the Gaha road near the Messubim junction. Police believe the vehicle's brakes failed. The injured were taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. Also yesterday, a 40-year-old man from the South was killed when his car overturned on the Jordan Valley highway.



Jordanian police in armored personnel carriers stand by yesterday on the main street of Karak following the second day of violence over bread prices.

Court pressured not to give senior officers jail terms

BACKGROUND ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE decision by the autonomous military court to give short suspended sentences to Col. Amos Ben-Avraham and two other officers, convicted of negligence in the 1992 deaths of two soldiers, and not demote them, came after stern warnings from the top IDF brass and anonymous officers in the field.

battalion commanders all denied they sought immunity for themselves. "It's a very good verdict, but we'll be severely attacked," said another officer involved with the unit.

Four drown over weekend

FOUR men drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in separate incidents and seven people were hospitalized after swimming accidents over the weekend. Martin Liebertin, 72, of Nahariya, drowned off the Galei Galil Beach in Nahariya around 5 a.m. yesterday morning.

which they were riding hit the traffic median on the Gaha road near the Messubim junction. Police believe the vehicle's brakes failed. The injured were taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. Also yesterday, a 40-year-old man from the South was killed when his car overturned on the Jordan Valley highway.

WOES

(Continued from Page 1) Jordan has few resources and a huge young generation with high expectations and few prospects. Rioting sparked by large consumer price increases, mandated by agreements with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, is one of the most common causes of Third World unrest.

KAHALANI

(Continued from Page 1) "I have come here to say that you have the right to call out 'Shabbes,' and to protest on the sidewalks," Kahalani said, standing atop a table. "But you must not also resort to violence."

COMMANDERS

(Continued from Page 1) "We have to take responsibility, and taking responsibility means dealing with [mistakes], correcting and improving ourselves where needed and preventing [mistakes] in the future," Ben-Avraham said.

COMMANDERS

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, a former commander of Sayeret Matkal, told the military court that if Ben-Avraham was demoted it would send a message to officers that taking responsibility opens them up to being prosecuted.

With deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our beloved **KURT STEINMANN** The funeral will take place at the Kfar Shmaryahu Cemetery on Monday, August 19, 1996 at 5 p.m.

The setting of the headstone for **PETER R. ALLEN-FROST** Will take place on Tuesday, August 20, 1996 at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery at 5:30 p.m. Our sincere thanks to all those who offered their condolences Tami The family and friends

ONE OF A KIND THE WINDMILL HOTEL JERUSALEM There are many hotels in Jerusalem... But all agree we are second to none.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "Khalani min al-awla"

Cyprus, Greece seek international help

ALEX EFTY
NICOSIA

GREECE'S premier yesterday urged the international community to help calm the tense mood here and that's been divided for 22 years.

Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis arrived yesterday following two days of clashes this past week in the buffer zone that divides the independent island nation into the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north. Two Greek Cypriots were killed and 50 others were injured.

"It is time the international community at last fulfills its responsibility and exerts the necessary pressures on Turkey. The line dividing the island is a monument of shame," Simitis said.

Turkey maintains some 35,000 troops on northern Cyprus. Greek Cypriots consider it an occupation force, while Turkish Cypriots say without it they would be swamped by the ethnic Greek majority, who account for around 80 percent of the population.

Simitis held talks with Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides in a bid to "plan the next steps in the political efforts for ending the Turkish occupation."

Earlier yesterday, Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister Alecis Michaelides said the Turkish government must be held accountable for the killing and wounding of "peaceful unarmed demonstrators."

In both clashes, on Aug. 11 and 14, Greek Cypriot protesters stormed into the buffer zone, a no-man's land controlled by UN peacekeepers. The protesters threw stones at the Turkish security forces, who responded with gunfire.

"We call on the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and all the other interested parties to create the momentum to end the present explosive situation," Michaelides said.

The island was calm but tense yesterday after thousands of Greek Cypriots attending the Friday night funeral for one of the slain demonstrators. Troops and police remained on alert on both sides of the island's dividing line.

The recent bloodshed has increased tensions between Greece and Turkey, two NATO members whose relations have long been strained by friction over Cyprus and territorial disputes in the Aegean Sea.

The UN headquarters in Cyprus yesterday "strongly protested the totally unwarranted use of force by Turkish or Turkish Cypriot military personnel" during the buffer zone clashes.

A Greek Cypriot demonstrator was shot five times while climbing a flagpole in an attempt to tear down the Turkish banner at a Turkish military post on the edge of the buffer zone.

Turkish or Turkish Cypriot soldiers then proceeded to fire some 25 to 50 rounds indiscriminately into the crowd inside the buffer zone," the UN statement added.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third in 1974 to protect Turkish Cypriots in the wake of an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Greek Cypriot government is internationally recognized, while a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is only recognized by Ankara. (AP)

Lebed, Kulikov trade insults over Chechnya conflict

News agencies
MOSCOW

RUSSIAN security boss Alexander Lebed and Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov traded insults yesterday when Lebed snubbed an Interior Ministry meeting and Kulikov said Lebed did not understand the issues.

Lebed, Yeltsin's special representative in rebel Chechnya, declined an invitation to attend a closed meeting of top Interior Ministry officials.

"There is no sense in him going as there will be no serious discussions about Chechnya. Kulikov's deputies will all be there, trying to work out what tactics to use to save him," Lebed press spokesman Alexander Barkhatov said.

Kulikov told Russian television he regretted Lebed's decision to stay away and made clear he thought Lebed was ill-informed about Chechnya.

"Perhaps Alexander Lebed, a man who has only recently begun to dip into Caucasian problems, does not yet have a full understanding of everything," Kulikov said.

He added: "Perhaps his presence would have helped us to sort out things together and to adopt more effective measures."

Lebed, who shot to power in the Kremlin after a strong performance in the first round of the Russia's

presidential election, said Kulikov should be sacked for mishandling the Chechnya conflict.

"The Minister of Interior of Russia did not fulfill his duty before Russia. I'm totally sure he cannot remain minister any longer," he told a news conference after returning from talks with separatist leaders in Chechnya.

"Now I address Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin: you will have to make a difficult choice. Only one must stay - Lebed or Kulikov."

Interfax news agency, however, quoted well-informed Kremlin sources as saying Yeltsin had a "short telephone conversation" with Kulikov and had ordered him to stay at his post.

Outbursts of fighting shook the informal cease-fire in Grozny yesterday while the Russian and rebel commanders met to negotiate details of their uneasy truce.

The meeting in southern Chechnya between Gen. Konstantin Pulikovskiy, the top Russian commander, and Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov lasted for more than four hours, the separatist command said. The two discussed details

of a planned joint commission that would monitor the shaky cease-fire.

Maskhadov gave Pulikovskiy a copy of his order to rebel fighters formally establishing the truce and "zones of responsibility" in devastated Grozny, and Pulikovskiy promised to issue a similar order today, it said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Fighting continued to flare up from time to time in downtown Grozny, which the Chechens continued to control despite running low on gasoline and other supplies. The sides blasted each other with artillery, mortars and machine guns and Russian warplanes carried several air raids on the city.

Issa Astamirov, the Chechen chief of staff in Grozny, accused the Russian side of violating the cease-fire and said his fighters have rebuffed several Russian attacks yesterday.

"We don't have any hope that the Russians will honor any cease-fire," he said. "Russia's policy is based on the principle of the fewer Chechens, the better." The rebel command reported a major outburst of fighting last night,

and said five Russian armored vehicles were destroyed, according to Interfax. The Russian side had no immediate comment.

The audacious rebel assault on the city Aug. 6 dented the already shaky confidence of Russian forces in the separatist republic and set off an orgy of blame-casting in the Kremlin.

In Chechnya, many interior troops believed that Lebed could help resolve the conflict, but said Kulikov should not serve as a scapegoat.

"It's not right to blame just one person. Maybe he's guilty in some way but he's not the only one, a lot of other people are guilty," said Maj. Sergei Vakharin, whose troops were manning a checkpoint 40 km southwest of Grozny.

The rebel chief of staff, Maskhadov, said Lebed is the only Russian official he trusts.

"He hasn't got blood on his hands," said Maskhadov, who has met twice this week with Lebed in search of a way to end the 20-month war, which has killed more than 30,000 people.

At least 247 Russian soldiers have died and 1,000 have been wounded since the rebels overran Grozny, according to Lebed. The soldiers are dying for nothing, he said.

African migrants await fate in Paris church

PARIS (Reuters) - Some 300 Africans lacking residency papers kept up their vigil in a Paris church yesterday, preparing for a raid by authorities committed to expelling them.

Hundreds of supporters surrounded them, hoping to dissuade the authorities. But the government ruled out any compromise, saying allowing the migrants to remain would violate the law.

Among the 300 were 10 individuals in the 44th day of a hunger strike. Volunteer doctors at the church told reporters that two of the 10 had begun refusing to submit to daily health checks, raising fears for their lives.

At midday an ambulance pulled up to the church and whisked away one of the African women who had been occupying the church.

She later gave birth to a baby - the sixth to be born to the group since the occupation began on June 28.

"When you are the head of the government, your duty is to apply the law, and this is what we are going to do in following the applicable procedures," Prime Minister Alain Juppe said in an interview published yesterday.

"The stakes are quite high because beyond these few hundred people are thousands of other

illegal immigrants, and I remind you that the President (Jacques Chirac) said on July 14 that illegal immigration must not take hold in France," Juppe told the regional daily *Sud-Ouest*.

The protest was shaping up as a public relations nightmare for the Juppe government as celebrities and other supporters flocked to the Saint-Bernard church in the capital's multi-ethnic Goutte d'Or neighborhood to show their solidarity.

Among those passing the night at the crowded church were film beauty Emmanuelle Beart, cancer specialist Leon Schwartzberg and Jacques Gallot, the French bishop sacked by the Vatican last year for his liberal views.

People outside the church said they hoped to provide an early warning in case of a raid. Some said they would try to physically prevent police from carrying off the Africans.

The Africans have denied they are in France illegally, saying that virtually all had arrived with a proper visa, which the state later refused to extend.

They accuse the government of trying to make an example of them because it fears inroads by the fiercely anti-immigrant National Front party in 1998 elections.

Mugabe weds former secretary

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - Decades of disputes with the Roman Catholic Church apparently forgiven, Zimbabwe's president and his bride welcomed international dignitaries yesterday to their wedding mass.

Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe's only black leader since independence from Britain in 1980, had eschewed Christianity for decades - first as a Marxist guerrilla leader, then as a radical politician who accused churches of meddling in state affairs for protesting human rights abuses.

Catholic Archbishop Patrick Chakaipa performed the ceremony. His spokesman said the Harare diocese found "no impediment" to a full Catholic wedding mass.

Mugabe, 72, married his former secretary, Grace Marufu, 31, whom he'd married in 1992 in an African tribal ceremony.

In her first interview on state television, Marufu said she worked as a private secretary in Mugabe's office for nine years until 1994.

Some Catholic leaders had protested yesterday's ceremony, saying Mugabe was guilty of polygamy.

Mugabe and Marufu have two children, a 9-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter, both of whom were born while Mugabe's first wife, Sally Hayfron, was still alive. She died of a kidney ailment in 1991.

Before the death of his first wife, Mugabe had paid a traditional "bride price" to Marufu's family. They were married in 1992.

Church leaders said the ceremony would solemnize the marriage.

More than 6,000 guests were invited to the ceremony in a Roman Catholic church, 80 km west of Harare, where Mugabe as a child was educated by Jesuit priests.

South African President Nelson Mandela and the leaders of neighboring Botswana and Namibia were to attend.

French woman, Russians blast off for Mir

MOSCOW (Reuters) - France's first woman in space took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan yesterday for a 16-day scientific mission aboard Russia's orbiting Mir space station.

Itar-Tass news agency said the Soyuz-U rocket carrying Frenchwoman Claudie Andre-Deshays and Russians Valery Korzun and Alexander Kalery took off as scheduled at 5.17 p.m. The rocket is due to dock with Mir tomorrow.

The crew will join two Russians and American astronaut Shannon Lucid on the orbiting station, which was launched in February 1986 and which has been manned permanently ever since.

Yesterday's launch had been delayed twice because of problems with a booster rocket taking supplies to Mir.

Big cash problems have hit the once-proud Russian space sector since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991 and many missions have

been changed at the last minute.

Some new development has been frozen, although cooperation with other countries has brought in much-needed revenue. Russian officials have said France was paying \$13.7 million for the Andre-Deshays mission.

Russia, the United States and Europe are working together to build a new, permanently-manned station, to be called Alpha.

Andre-Deshays first applied to join the French space agency CNES in 1985, but was turned down. She studied for a further five years and reapplied, joining the agency six years ago as head of its physiology and space medicine programs.

The two Russian crew members of the Soyuz-U rocket, Valery Korzun and Alexander Kalery, are due to stay in orbit for 225 days, working on 157 Russian and more than 40 US experiments.


They replace Yuri Onufriyenko and Yuri Usachev, who left Earth in February.

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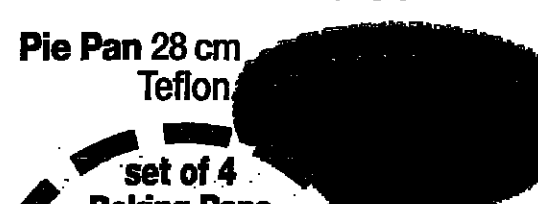
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Hostage pilots make daring escape

SEVEN Russian pilots held hostage for over a year by Islamic militia in Afghanistan have escaped in their own plane to the United Arab Emirates, dodging a jeep on the runway and evading pursuers in a plane and a helicopter.

Sources in Moscow and a Taliban opposition militia spokesman in Afghanistan said the pilots got away in the same cargo plane which a Taliban fighter forced them to land in August 1995.

"They managed to escape yesterday to Sharjah. They persuaded Taliban authorities they needed to make a check and make maintenance of the aircraft," a representative of airline Aerostan told Reuters by telephone from Sharjah.

Wakil Ahmad, Taliban spokesman in the southern Afghan town of Kandahar, said the Russians had escaped with three guards after pretending they wanted to carry out maintenance.

He said one Taliban jet ordered to chase the runaway plane could not take off because of a flat tyre and a second jet and a helicopter took off too late to catch the cargo

PHILIPPA FLETCHER
MOSCOW

plane, a Soviet-built Ilyushin-76.

Explaining how the pilots had escaped, Ahmad said the Russian airmen had been allowed to inspect their plane every two months to keep it airworthy.

Two checks took place on Friday and during the afternoon inspection the plane suddenly began racking along the runway. It skirted a jeep that tried to block its path and took off.

Ahmad said Russian airmen identified their plane as being from Afghanistan's state-run Ariana airline as they flew over Iran to Sharjah, a popular destination for shoppers from Russia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

A spokeswoman from Russia's Emergencies Ministry said the ministry would send a plane to Sharjah soon to collect the pilots. "They'll pick them up and come straight back," she said.

Itar-Tass news agency said Russian President Boris Yeltsin had been told about the pilots' escape and had ordered Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Ignatenko to fly to the UAE as his special repre-

sentative to meet them, Tass said.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Russian embassy in Abu Dhabi was in constant contact with the pilots and the authorities in Sharjah.

The statement said the Russians flew to the United Arab Emirates "as a result of courageous actions". They were in a satisfactory condition and planned to return home soon.

When the pilots were forced down, their plane was carrying ammunition to Kabul from Albania, and Taliban said the incident proved Russian military support for the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani which the militia is fighting to overthrow.

Moscow has said the crew's nationality was coincidental and has made regular attempts to secure their escape.

The Taliban initially insisted that Russia account for about 60,000 Afghans said to have disappeared after the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. It also demanded an end to what it called continued Russian interference in Afghanistan.

(Reuters)



US Senator Hank Brown (rear center) poses with Russian cargo plane captain V.I. Sharpatov (second from left) and his six crew members last Tuesday in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The Russians, who were held hostage by militant Taliban guerrillas since August last year managed to escape to the UAE yesterday. (AP)

India firm on rejecting nuclear treaty

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has vowed not to give in to international pressure to agree to a global nuclear test ban treaty that New Delhi finds discriminatory, a government spokesman said yesterday.

"Attempts are being made to put pressure on us to agree to this despite its obvious negative implications for our national security. We have made it clear that we shall not allow such efforts to succeed," the spokesman quoted Deve Gowda as saying.

"The reluctance of the nuclear powers to give up their arsenals is proof of their discriminatory attitude on this vital issue of global importance," he said.

India has vetoed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) being negotiated in Geneva and will oppose further attempts to send the draft treaty to the UN General Assembly.

India says the treaty is discriminatory because it fails to commit nuclear powers to disarm within a specified time and allows them to refine arsenals through computerized testing while barring others from tests.

It has pledged to block the treaty because it contains a clause requiring India to ratify the pact for it to become law. India says this infringes its sovereignty, and is virtually isolated in openly opposing the pact.

The five nuclear weapons states are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. India, Israel and Pakistan are called "threshold" states, considered capable of swiftly assembling nuclear arms.

The Daiji Lama, Tibet's god-king and Nobel peace laureate, yesterday said he supported India's decision to link the CTBT with universal, time-bound nuclear disarmament.

In the interview with the *Times of India* the Buddhist spiritual leader said: "I support India's stand on the CTBT that all nuclear powers should make a timetable for eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons."

"At present, what's happening is that, at attempt is being made to prevent non-nuclear powers from testing. This is inadequate... it's very important to work for eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons," he said.

Queen asks paparazzi to keep off

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked four freelance photographers for an assurance that they will not trespass on her Scottish estate during a holiday she began there yesterday.

A spokeswoman for the queen said the move followed past incidents when members of the so-called paparazzi, using cameras with long lenses, had refused to leave the Balmoral estate, or to stop taking snaps of her and her family off-duty.

It was the second time this week photographers had fallen foul of Britain's royalty, the most photographed family in the world.

Princess Diana, who is currently in the middle of a divorce from heir to the throne Prince Charles, has just won a High Court injunction ordering a photographer she said was harassing her to keep more than 300 meters away.

The *Sun* newspaper said that last April the four photographers worrying the queen had refused a request from a policeman and a Royal bodyguard to move off a mountain on the estate, claiming they were on a public footpath.

They spent an hour taking photographs of various members of the Royal family, it said.

The *Sun* said yesterday that if the four, who were not named, refused to give an assurance, they would stay away from Balmoral, the estate would also go to court for an injunction to keep them away.

But the spokeswoman did not confirm this. "There are all sorts of things we might be able to do. At this stage we would rather do it willingly," she said.

The Queen was due to arrive at Balmoral yesterday for her annual summer holiday accompanied by her husband, Prince Philip, and her daughter Princess Anne. Other family members are expected to join her later.

Princess Diana took action this week against *Martin Stenning*, a 36-year-old freelance, who she complained, followed her everywhere.

"I can no longer drive out of Kensington Palace (her London home) gates without fearing what he might do to me next," the princess said in an affidavit.

"He seems to know my every move. I shall suffer undue psychological pressure and become ill," she added.

Seoul police turn the screw, students stay defiant

MORE THAN 1,000 South Korean student radicals armed with gas cylinders, petrol bombs and iron pipes kept a huge force of riot police at bay for the fourth day yesterday, and some of them threatened suicide if attacked.

Witnesses said the masked students defied a thick fog of skin-stinging tear gas to stage an illegal rally demanding unification with communist North Korea.

About 10,000 riot police, backed by tear-gas launchers and helicopters, had besieged the Yonsei campus for the fourth consecutive day to put pressure on the protesters to surrender.

Police warned them in repeated loudspeaker calls they would face stern punishment if they continued to hold out.

Witnesses said police had cornered the students in two campus buildings after peppering them with tear gas from helicopters.

"Police pushed the students deep into the campus easily but were unable to break into their strongholds," one witness said.

As seven gas-firing helicopters circled overhead, several hundred students sang anti-government songs and chanted slogans on the roof of a science department building.

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SHIM SUNG-WON
SEOUL

Yonsei all but about 1,100 were believed to have slipped out of the campus through back gates into surrounding hills after police pulled back to the front gate during the night.

Police said they had already detained nearly 1,300 students for involvement in this week's violent demonstrations, formally charged 19 of them and sought arrest warrants for 23 others. About 1,000 were being questioned by police.

Students who have occupied the two campus buildings for four days warned they would explode gas cylinders if police stormed the buildings to arrest them.

"We will fight until the end if we are not allowed to go home free. We are prepared to die," one student declared.

Laboratories in the occupied science block contained a large quantity of chemicals, university officials said.

Senior professor Choi Byong-keok said the Yonsei protesters had called the Seoul government a puppet of the United States and were "actively engaged in activities benefiting the enemy."

About 500 policemen had been injured in this week's clashes, students said. 400 protesters had been wounded.

(Reuters)

Indonesia celebrates 51st independence day quietly

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesian President Suharto took the salute at a military parade yesterday as the nation celebrated its 51st anniversary of independence against the background of recent political unrest.

Troops guarded routes to the presidential palace where Suharto presided over the main ceremony, attended by about 4,000 people, including foreign dignitaries and members of parliament.

Guns boomed in a ceremonial salute and soldiers in crisp uniforms stood at attention as a military band played the national anthem but enthusiasm appeared tempered by the unrest and the death of Suharto's wife in April.

Suharto made no speech but waved to the audience when leaving after the one-hour ceremony.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's late founding president and revered independence hero Sukarno, was present at the ceremony but did not speak to reporters.

She did not approach Suharto, who succeeded her father in the midst of political turmoil in the mid-1960s, but witnesses said she greeted him inside the palace after the ceremony.

The capital was mostly deserted with shops closed because of the holiday, but passengers in some cars could be seen waving small red and white Indonesian flags. Red-and-white bunting and lights decorated sidewalks on main thoroughfares.

The palace ceremony was not open to the public but many people could be seen congregating at the nearby Independence Square.

Crowds were far less than in previous years and witnesses said many preferred to stay at home because of the prevailing tension.

Police arrest neo-Nazis across Germany

FRANKFURT (AP) - Police arrested about 60 right-wing extremists who marched through the southwestern town of Worms yesterday in violation of a nationwide ban on rallies marking the anniversary of former Hitler deputy Rudolph Hess' death.

Police took neo-Nazis into protective custody elsewhere, or turned back groups at the French border who were making their way to the demonstration some 60 km south of Frankfurt.

Police in Worms said nearly 200 counter-demonstrators filled the town's main square to protest the neo-Nazi gathering, but no clashes were reported.

Police in the southwestern states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Hesse said they took 44 suspected neo-Nazis into protective custody.

Authorities banned neo-Nazi rallies nationwide in anticipation of marches marking the Aug. 17, 1967 death of Hess in West Berlin's Spandau prison.

But there was no sign of demonstrations or parallel celebrations by anti-government protesters.

A sense of unease has hung over the country since riots erupted in Jakarta on July 27 after police raided the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and evicted supporters of Megawati, who was ousted as party chief by a government-backed party faction in June.

At least four people died and scores of buildings and vehicles were set on fire in the worst violence in the city for two decades.

Sukarno proclaimed independence on August 17, 1945, two days after World War II ended and following more than three years of Japanese occupation.

The formal power of transfer from the Dutch, who had ruled Indonesia for more than 350 years before the Japanese occupation, came only in 1949 after some heavy fighting.

Suharto, who joined a Japanese-sponsored defense force during the occupation and became a general after independence, has led the mostly Muslim state with a firm grip.

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Don't judge food by its packaging

NEW WORLDS
POST SCIENCE REPORTER

DESIGNING food packaging requires more than something that will merely keep the product together. To stay competitive, manufacturers have to design products that are attractive, friendly to the environment and which even keep the food fresh or help it cook.

Prof. Joseph Miltz, a chemical food engineer and packaging expert at the Haifa Technion, is currently heading a team effort to make food crisp and brown in the microwave instead of becoming hot but remaining "sickly" pale. According to the Technion's *Focus* newsletter, the team are analyzing elements that cause the food to brown, including food composition and package characteristics such as type and thickness of its laminated metal coating.

Another Miltz project is to find ways to use recycled plastic as a middle layer between two "virgin" layers of plastic, on condition that the researchers can prove pollutants in the recycled layer won't seep through to the food. Miltz is also looking into the possibility of developing plastic trays to replace metal cans for food packaging; plastic is cheaper for food companies because of lighter weight and lower transportation costs.

"Active packaging" — a technique of using oxygen-absorbing pads under a bottle cap or wrapping tomatoes with ethylene absorbers to retain freshness — are very popular in Japan today, but not in the US, where consumers are suspicious of the safety of such innovations. Miltz, who says active packaging is harmless, is looking into ways to incorporate the active elements into the packaging so that they won't offend Western buyers.

LONG-DISTANCE HOUSE-HUNTING

A computerized database for realtors and assessors has been designed to let potential clients see full-color photographs of properties up for sale or rent. The two-year-old Television company, established by Yegar Avrech and his partners Haim Lazerovich and Golan Becker, provides this service.

A person living in Tel Aviv, for example, who is interested in an apartment in Eilat doesn't have to fly south to look for a flat. He can view many properties, snapped by professional photographers, over a computer screen. After selecting those that interest him, he can ask to see them in person, but it is not unusual for customers to buy an apartment merely after viewing them on the database.

The Photonian system is updated daily before 8 a.m. Television customers may receive a file of photos at their e-mail address every morning. The largest number of properties is listed between Thursday and Friday. Foreign customers may also find potential properties, as the database is hooked up to 300 real estate and assessors offices around the world. Perhaps one day, virtual reality could be used to "tour" homes while maneuvering one's computer mouse.

Avrech, who initiated the idea, has opened Israel's first real-estate service on the Internet for individual searching for properties. More information can be obtained from 03-5470547.

WIRED TO APRON STRINGS

The fact that many worried parents have supplied their soldier children with a cellular phone is known; now parents sending their youngsters to overseas camps and trips are renting special cellular phones that work overseas as well.

United Call, a Ramat Gan-based company that leases cellular phones abroad, says there has been a 100 percent increase in such rentals in the past year. Most of the phones are used in North America and Europe. United Call managing director Yossi Brankonoff says anxious parents feel secure when they can reach their travelling child at any time. The company also provides phones for use in Eastern Europe.

HOUSE ON-LINE

Accent Software's NetCreater division has been hired to build an Internet site for the Knesset. The Jerusalem software company plans a site that will offer "virtual tour" of the parliament building, with full details on the Knesset's activities. It is being created in cooperation with the Knesset's computer unit and library and will also serve all factions. The planned launch in Hebrew will be in September, and an English version will follow.

"Others build sites, but we build bridges," says NetCreater director Dudi Fuchs. "The project will be a bridge over which the citizenry will be able to contact their representatives in the Knesset directly or via the committees to get information in any subject related to the legislative process."

GREEN GREENHOUSE

Local scientists have developed a solar-energy desert greenhouse whose energy costs are significantly lower than conventional systems. Prof. Dov Pasternak and Dr. Eli Korin of Ben-Gurion University and engineer Uri Dror of the Nifla Ltd. company built a greenhouse with a tunnel-like section covered with plastic, screened windows and two solar cells containing a plastic sleeve full of water. A mobile polyethylene screen allows maximum penetration of sun during the day and thermal insulation at night.

The innovative system, recently displayed at the recent Agritech exhibition in Tel Aviv, has a number of benefits: the operating costs are a third of conventional greenhouses; no mist is created inside and the leaves do not become wet. In addition, says Pasternak, it can be run either automatically or manually in places lacking electricity. The patented system is suited especially to desert climates with strong sunlight. On clear summer nights, the system raises the inside temperature by 9 degrees Celsius above the outside temperature. On a cloudy night after a rainy day, inside temperatures are 6 degrees higher than outside.

A 21st-century Johnny Appleseed

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

IF you see what looks like giant carrots dropping from an airship and hear the pitter-patter of falling trees, they may not be the "unidentified flying objects" recently sighted over Israel or pie in the sky, but the brainchild of Dr. Moshe Alamaro, an Israeli-trained aeronautical engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who aims to fight global warming with tree planting like a 21st-century Johnny Appleseed.

Alamaro, who was born in Italy and raised here, left in 1982 for the US. From working at Israel Aircraft Industries and the Israel Navy, he is now working with his MIT partner Nicholas Patrick to establish an international consortium for fighting global warming. Alamaro was in Israel recently, on a stop-off from a visit to South Korea, to interest local companies and investors in the consortium and share the cost and technologies.

The young scientist says that many parts of the world that are now bare of trees, but used to support forests, have the potential of doing so again. Middle Eastern forests were cleared by the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century; trees died in Greenland and high-altitude parts of Europe in the 13th century due to climatic changes; forest fires have ravaged large tracts of forest in Colorado, Alaska and New Mexico in recent years. "All these places, as well as large parts of Canada, northeast Asia, Africa and South America, can once again support forests, given a feasible reforestation technology."

But planting trees, especially in outlying regions, is a difficult task, as any Jewish National Fund worker can tell you. Thus

Alamaro and Patrick have adapted a 25-year-old technique of dropping seedlings from the air. They have already seen that their idea can work.

In the late 1970s, John Walters of the University of British Columbia's research forest investigated the possibility of reforesting logged-out areas from an aircraft. But his earth-filled darts scattered the soil if they hit it (thus the saplings did not easily take root), and if they hit a rock or tree stump, they exploded. The two developed a larger, stronger, slicker cone made of biodegradable material and holding a sapling, soil, nutrients and water bags about 20 or 30 centimeters in height. Dropped from an unmanned airship in the sky, the "missile" reaches a speed of 300 kilometers an hour and plants itself in rockless, uninhabited soil. Since dropping these would be dangerous in areas populated by animals and humans, Alamaro and Patrick intend to work in remote areas where no one would be hurt. Any place without rocks or debris would be suitable, even in a desert, if it received enough rainfall to sustain the tree.

What would be the use of this? Alamaro explains that trees remove carbon dioxide from the air as they grow. According to the US Department of Energy, a hectare of pine trees absorbs nearly 10 tons of CO2 each year. This can reduce the danger of global warming. Laws in the US and elsewhere increasingly require electric-power companies and those that carry out logging operations to plant trees to compensate for the harm they have done to the atmosphere. It doesn't matter where they plant the trees — it could be in Alaska or Antarctica for that matter — as long as they survive and gobble up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Dr. Moshe Alamaro plans to fight global warming with tree planting.

The team has already dropped their cones from a plane in an unpopulated part of Bedford, Massachusetts, and "everything is growing fine. Now we're modifying the procedure a bit." Alamaro recently visited Japan, whose ministry of industry's mechanical engineering institute is working on a solar-powered, remote-controlled airship for communications purposes. Two

investors are former US secretary of state Alexander Haig and his son, who hope to launch 250 of these balloons into the lower stratosphere to function as communications satellites but much more cheaply than those hurled into space. These airships, says Alamaro, could double as tree-planting stations and monitor their landing. "This could be done by infrared sighting, which is carried out much better at night than during the day, because it's cooler and movement of animals and people could more easily be picked up."

Low-lying countries such as Bangladesh and the Netherlands may be the first to suffer from global warming, he continues. As the heat melts Arctic ice, the oceans will rise, and these countries could be flooded. Thus reducing carbon dioxide concentrations is urgently needed.

Pine trees, such as those that grow in the Jerusalem area, are especially resilient to cold, but other types could be air-dropped as well. "In less than a year, we can start in places hit by forest fires in the US," Alamaro predicts. Sha'ar Hagai near Jerusalem, which was hit last year by a severe forest fire, would not be a very suitable site due to its rockiness, but the flatter areas there could possibly be a good target. "As we gain experience, we will make our offer to power companies, mass manufacturing the containers and planting hundreds of millions of trees at a cost of 25 to 40 cents apiece."

Dr. Alamaro can be reached at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Room 3-335, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 or by e-mail: alamaro@mit.edu

Wristwatch beeper comes to the rescue

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

YAD Sarah's emergency beeper system recently saved the life of an elderly, sickly widower who resides alone in the capital's Bukharan quarter. After feeling unwell, the man managed to press the emergency beeper "wristwatch" linked to his phone line.

The voluntary organization immediately called the man's home, but no one answered. Worried, after noting on the computer screen the man's medical history (hypertension, chronic lung disease and overweight), a Magen David Adom ambulance was sent to the home and a neighbor informed. When he didn't respond to the doorbell, the MDA team called the fire services, who broke down the door. An MDA mobile intensive care unit arrived and revived the man. Diagnosis: A heart attack. Yad Sarah quickly informed Bikur Holim Hospital, where the patient was sent for treatment, that he was allergic to most types of antibiotics.

The voluntary medical aid organization based in Jerusalem is currently installing large numbers of emergency beepers in the homes of old people living alone in the Beersheba and central region. They are provided at a cost of NIS 200, including a battery for use during power failures. For more information, call Yad Sarah at 02-6444422.

SHORTENING COLDS

It isn't a cure for the common cold, but US researchers have found an inexpensive throat lozenge that seem to shorten the duration of a cold. The study, by scientists at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, was published in the latest issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Non-prescription zinc gluconate throat lozenges were found to cut the duration of cold symptoms

nearly in half, wrote pediatrician Dr. Michael Macklin. Trying the lemon-flavored zinc lozenges and placebo lozenges on 100 clinic staffers suffering from colds, he found that symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, headaches, nasal congestion, hoarseness, runny noses and sore throats, were eliminated in an average of four days for the group that took zinc lozenges and seven days in the control group.

The lozenges, marketed in the US under the brand name *Cold-eze*, are not perfect, however. Eight out of 10 who used them complained of a metallic aftertaste and 20 percent suffered some annoying side-effects including mouth irritation and nausea. At least seven previous studies of zinc and colds yielded conflicting results. Macklin warned against taking zinc as a preventive measure, saying that no studies have investigated whether the mineral prevents colds and that more research is needed on the effects of taking zinc over a long period.

LEND ME YOUR EAR

Why do mothers tend to hold infants on their left arm? One explanation is obvious: most women are right handed, so they free their more dextrous hand for taking care of the baby. However, Dr. Harry Sieratzki, an expert in neonatology at London's Hammersmith Hospital, led a team that presented a new explanation. In a recent issue of *The Lancet*, they explained that putting the baby in this position frees his left ear so he can hear the mother's voice. This is related to the organization of the human brain, the researchers explained. Each side of

the brain is specialized to process different aspects of speech; the left side, which gets information mainly from the right ear, handles the structure of language; the grammar and syntax of speech and the contents of words.

But when mothers speak to their babies, the researchers suggest, they express themselves not through words and grammar but through the sound of their voice — the tone and melody of their speech. The right side of the brain that processes tone and melody gets most of its information from the left ear. So when mothers instinctively cradle their infant on the left side, the baby's left ear is free to absorb tone and melody, if not the sense, of their words.

ON-LINE BABIES

On-line, computerized supervision of premature babies has been installed at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital. Described as "the first of its kind" in the country, the system allows staff to have all data on each neonate at their fingertips: heartbeat, blood pressure, respiration and other vital parameters. By pressing a code, the operator can get all the information about each baby, including what drugs he or she is getting and progress in development. Neonatal intensive care unit director Prof. Rina Gil says the system was developed over the past two years in accordance with the unit's special requirements.

Dr. Ilan Gur, who was in charge of the computerization project, says a special system was developed to produce an electronic medical file for each young patient. All the information is available in real-time over the weeks or months that they are hospitalized. Bikur Holim's 25-year-old neonatal intensive care unit was the first established in Israel.

The case of the fading fax document

TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I received a fax on my fax machine, which uses chemical paper. It was an important document, but it faded quickly and now it is gone. What causes this to happen? Is there any way of restoring faxes that faded into oblivion? Nahum, Beit Zayit.

Technicians at five fax repair shops in Jerusalem agreed on this answer:

The thin chemical paper used in old-fashioned fax machines is sensitive to light and heat. Light makes the paper turn black. It's always a good idea to photostat on regular paper any important fax that is produced on chemical paper.

Unfortunately, there is no way to restore the text of a fax message that has faded or blacked out. Regarding evolution, I always wondered why — if creatures developed over billions of years from simple cells to plants to lower animals to higher animals — we didn't all end up as the same creatures instead of such diverse flora and fauna. What is the scientist's explanation? Alice, Omer.

Prof. Eitan Chernov, an expert in evolution at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, replies:

There is competition among the species. Each of them reached a certain stage because it found its ecological niche under specific geographical, environmental and climatological conditions where it lived. Thus each species became the best and will not change until some other species adapts better

and replaces it or there is some catastrophe that destroys it. If the climate, geography and environment in the whole world were completely uniform, life would not have progressed beyond the virus, because there would be no competition and no adaptation to an ecological niche.

I know that mutations can change a person's DNA over the course of his lifetime. Does that mean that the DNA of adult identical twins is not the same as it was at birth? Hagai, Ariel.

Prof. Rivka Carmi of the genetics department at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev explains:

The "genetic fingerprint" of identical twins is exactly the same. However, various environmental influences to which each is exposed during life can cause mutations to develop in the DNA of some of their tissues. If one twin lived in Chernobyl at the time of the nuclear disaster, he could have suffered mutations that increase his risk of cancer, while the other twin would not. These mutations would not show up in the blood cells, but it would appear in tissues of various affected organs.

Viruses, ultraviolet light and other environmental influences can cause these somatic changes, as could nuclear radiation. Twins could, by the way, both have a genetic pre-disposition to a certain disease, but the disease wouldn't necessarily have to occur in both if the two were not exposed to the same degree to environmental triggers that cause the disease to appear.

An environmentally friendly CD-ROM

DISK-COVERY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

OLAMO Shel Ozzie, a Hebrew translation of Digital Impact Ltd.'s *Ozzie's World*, a CD-ROM, produced and marketed by Mahshevet Ltd.,

for children aged three to eight, NIS 159.

Rating: four stars out of five

This is undoubtedly the only computer program in the world accompanied by a 54-page user's manual printed on recycled paper and five Jerusalem pine seeds and planting medium ready for germination in an empty yogurt container.

The US company that developed this software should be congratulated for the thought that went into it, and Mahshevet deserves kudos for choosing to adapt it for the local audience of children. Appreciating and protecting the environment is the message of the program, and it remains the key idea throughout — instead of being just an excuse to produce yet another kids' game under the guise of being educational. Any child who spends hours performing the 40 scientific experiments described in the program and going through all the animated action on screen will undoubtedly become "greener" (i.e., more environmentally aware) than before.

Ozzie is a friendly beaver who guides the user among five different sites: his bedroom, the seashore, the forest, his garden and the veterinarian's office. Each of these areas can be reached by clicking the mouse on a signpost or on a map. The five screens are full of objects — animals, household objects, plants and various paraphernalia. Click on them and colorful, clever animation

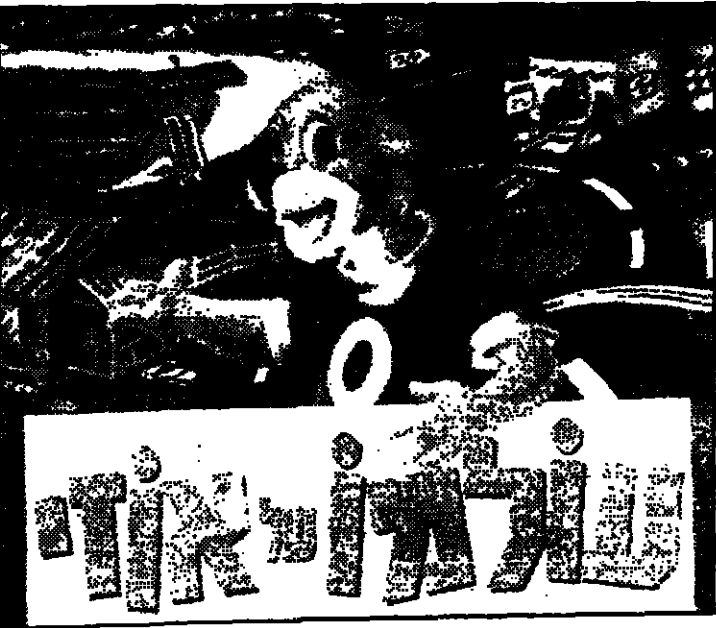
is shown: sandwiches jump out of a picnic basket onto a blanket, a lion-faced clock begins to roar.

Each of the sites also has four objects that lead to games. A puzzle piece is clicked to produce a full-screen puzzle, that can function on any of three levels of difficulty. A magnifying glass, when clicked, turns into a picture with hidden objects that must be discovered with the help of clues.

Click on the yellow dump truck and you get a classification game: various objects run across the screen as if on a conveyor belt, and the user has to drag it into the proper category. One typical game requires sorting junk into recycling piles according to whether they are made of plastic, paper, metal or glass. A trophy is clicked to produce a memory game: click on two windows and try to find pairs of animals. If you complete all of them, a nice photo is uncovered.

These games will interest kids on the younger end of the age scale, but the really exciting part for older children (even 10 or 12 year olds, and not just up to eight as designated by Mahshevet) are the scientific experiments. To access these, one must wait until an on-screen treasure chest opens, then simultaneously press the shift key on the keyboard while clicking the mouse. This task can be quite difficult for younger kids, and annoying for older kids. It's a shame an easier way wasn't devised to open up the experiments.

Each Ozzie site has eight experiments to be studied on screen and then tried out at home, with simple household items. Make a rainbow by squirting a garden hose into the air opposite the sun; roast a hot dog by skewering it on a wire and inserting it into a solar-powered "grill" made from a cut cylindrical



'Olamo Shel Ozzie' comes with a user's manual printed on recycled paper along with five Jerusalem pine seeds.

can lined with aluminum foil. Or, using an apple stuck on an axis, make a model explaining the seasons and the change of day into night. Ozzie also invites users to catch bugs and worms and examine them while they feed in a jar — but insists that they be "returned to their natural surroundings" when they're finished, instead of killing them!

Two other green-minded assignments: sending a contribution to the Whale Adoption Project in Maine (you can "adopt" a whale by selecting from photographs) and writing a letter of support to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in Washington.

It's a shame that many of the Hebrew voice-overs are delivered in a monotonous, soporific tone; pro-

fessional actors could have been used. But this delightful program is worth buying and using again and again.

Sefer Ha'Iguyon (in Hebrew), and the *Book of Nonsense* (in English), by Edward Lear. A book-and-CD-ROM combination sold separately in the two languages, for children of all ages. Produced by Maxima, marketed by Hed-Artzi Multimedia in Or Yehuda, NIS 69 for each set.

Rating: three-and-a-half stars out of five

This offering is like cranberry juice: sharp, refreshing but not to everyone's taste. Hed Artzi Multimedia and Maxima are to be congratulated for producing an

unconventional piece of software and a book, in two languages, to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Edward Lear's *Book of Nonsense*. The writer, born in London in 1812, first earned his living at 15 by drawing birds and other art. At 19, he started working as a draftsman for the London Zoological Society. He gradually moved on from natural-history art to landscape paintings, and then during the mid-1830s, began to write nonsense verse for children. *The Book of Nonsense* was published in 1846. Consisting of short rhymed verses, it is regarded as a masterpiece of children's literature. A man of great humor, he wrote this about himself: *How pleasant to know Mr. Lear! Who has written such volumes of stuff! Some think him ill-tempered and queer, but a few think him pleasant enough. His mind is concrete and fastidious, His nose is remarkably big; His visage is more or less hideous, His beard it resembled a wig.*

Youngsters who like to savor and play with words should first read the 46-page book; a typical offering: *There was an Old Person whose habits, Induced him to feed upon Rabbits; When he'd eaten eighteen, he turned perfectly green, Upon which he relinquished those habits.*

The CD-ROM contains all the poems and more. Click on more than two dozen eggs, each will crack and one of Lear's creatures will appear. A voice recites the poem as you read the text on the screen and enjoy the animation. The CD-ROM can also be listened to as an ordinary compact disk, without the antics on the computer. This low-priced product is a wonderful change of pace, but if your kids are addicted to action games and don't care much about language, it would bore them.

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Media reporting on Israel is not only relentlessly unfair but immensely harmful to Israel and to democratic values.

The Jerusalem Post's popular and hard-hitting *Eye on the Media* column cites specific media reports and names to expose the bias, distortions and gross factual errors that plague such coverage. Reprinted here are 97 recent columns on the way the American, European — and Israeli — media report events.

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David Bar-illan's column is outstanding. He is 100% right.

Teddy Kollek (Davar, August 21, 1992)

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Power vacuum

STEPHEN BRYEN

As the Republican National Convention got underway in San Diego last week, retired General Colin Powell saluted former president Ronald Reagan and thanked him for restoring the dignity of the US's military services.

Powell was right to recall that, during the Reagan administration, US spending on national defense increased dramatically and, with the renewed spending, came a parallel restoration of the élan of our military.

But there are certain ironies in Powell's salute. In the eight years Reagan has been out of office, the condition of the US military has deteriorated significantly. There have been huge reductions in spending, in troops, in bases, and in systems. And, while there has been talk about restructuring the US military system, not much real progress has been made. Given greatly reduced defense spending, the end of the Cold War, and other pressing budget demands, the "left over" post-Cold War US defense system can't be sustained even in its diminished form.

This is bad news for the friends and allies of the US who depend on it for security. At least three challenges face the US and its allies and friends: the rise of China as a real superpower; the potential for a turn-around in Russia's foreign and defense policy; and the risk that Saudi Arabia will fall to Islamic fundamentalists.

The growth of China's power is a danger to the US. As never before, the US economy is irrevocably tied to the Pacific rim. The US confronted China directly in Korea and by proxy in Vietnam. In neither case was it successful. Now, China is reshaping its military, getting rid of obsolete military industries and buying Western technology to upgrade its war-fighting capability. The recent confrontation with Taiwan, which caught the US flatfooted, stretched its resources to the limit. The Chinese were brazen enough to actually threaten the nuclear incineration of Los Angeles if the US didn't back off. While it is to President Clinton's credit that he did not back down, the Chinese are far from sure that he will stand up the next time.

Almost every leader in the Middle East and Asia sees the US as weak

Russia is very hard to read but far from safe. Boris Yeltsin is ill and unlikely to serve out his term of office. General Alexander Lebed, Russia's national security chief, could well replace him. Unlike Vladimir Zhirnovsky who was probably a fake fascist, Lebed looks and feels like the real thing. Should he take power in Russia, he could cause trouble, particularly in the ex-Soviet republics.

An upheaval in Saudi Arabia could also cause considerable harm to the US. The current spate of US-led exercises in the Gulf is meant to try and send a warning to the peripheral states (Iran and Iraq), but probably will do little good as a deterrent. Almost every leader in the Middle East, as in Asia, sees the US weak, unfocused and disinterested.

When one considers that there have been two major bombings of US troops in Saudi Arabia, a senior Defense Intelligence Agency official murdered in Cairo, and a flagship US airliner bombed (TWA-800) it is easy to agree with such an analysis. Is it no wonder then, that the new Turkish prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, can strike a multi-billion dollar natural gas deal with Iran and openly defy the US?

Understanding the geopolitical challenges, it is easy to see the means to deal with emerging security problems. Quite possibly, the presidential campaign could dramatize the problem of US international leadership. Powell's clarion call is a big help in this regard. But repairing and restructuring the US defense system will not be easy, no matter what the outcome of the election. Without major restructuring and renewal, a power vacuum will grow and with it the risk to Western security.

The writer was a senior Pentagon official and served as staff director of the Near East Subcommittee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Communicate, don't commute

JAY BUSHINSKY

I wonder how many Israelis have read *A Place in the Sun*, the book written by Binyamin Netanyahu before he became Israel's prime minister. In Jordan it's a best seller.

The Arabic translation, published with a handsome portrait of the author on its cover, is the main attraction at one of the Jordanian capital's many outdoor book bazaars.

Its prominent display typifies the extent to which King Hussein's Arab subjects and their brethren throughout the Arab world seem to be fascinated if not obsessed by the new Israeli leader.

Netanyahu's statements, interviews and activities get heavy coverage in the local press as well as on Jordanian radio and TV. Israel seems to fascinate the public in Jordan and the local media consistently respond to this trend, especially when the incumbent prime minister is concerned.

This may be attributable to the fact that the governments of Jordan and Israel are signatories to a peace treaty that formalized and publicized the tacit understandings that calmed the two neighboring states since Black September, 1970. It was then that the Hashemite Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organization parted company.

It is surprising, therefore, that many of the benefits of peace have not yet been reaped. No Israeli television, radio and newspaper correspondents have been assigned on a long-term basis to Amman. Nor have their Jordanian counterparts been stationed in Jerusalem.

Jordanian (and Jewish) Israeli high school students do not have to master Hebrew and Arabic respectively.

Israeli tourists keep an extremely low profile in the Jordanian capital. Outside of Petra, which is this country's main tourist attraction, Israelis are virtually invisible. Jordanian

tourists to Israel also is imperceptible.

THE NEWS MEDIA can act as a catalyst for mutual understanding and person-to-person contact. But that role cannot be performed if the journalists are not on the spot to cover events as they occur or explain the social, economic and political problems that concern the host country's people.

Amman is one of the region's

Occasional forays by seasoned reporters are not enough

capitals that should be covered regularly and thoroughly by Israeli correspondents. The others are Cairo, Ankara and Nicosia. And their Jordanian and Egyptian colleagues should be filling from Jerusalem. It is, wrong for editors to rely almost exclusively on international news agencies whose orientation must be global and whose dispatches must be as meaningful to readers in Hong Kong as to those in Aqaba or Eilat. Occasional forays by seasoned reporters are not enough.

Much of the infrastructure for normalization of relations at the people-to-people level already exists. Israeli motorists can drive across the Sheikh Hussein Bridge to Jordan, exchange their yellow license plates for black on white Jordanian ones and proceed to Jerash, Irbid or any other destination on the East Bank. The same is true of the Arava Crossing that links Eilat and Aqaba. But the number of (Jewish) Israeli drivers and pas-

sengers willing to see Jordan on their own is relatively small. The process seems to be less daunting for Israeli Arabs able to converse with the Jordanian officials in Arabic. There also are regularly-scheduled bus and plane connections between the two countries.

A newly-instituted regulation stipulating that individual Israeli tourists must obtain their visas at the Jordanian consulate in Ramat Gan rather than through their travel agents as in the past is a step backward.

At the political level, the key to genuine, lasting peace does not lie exclusively in one country's submission to the territorial claims of the other. This is demonstrated in the points raised by Rami G. Khouri in his column in *The Jordan Times* on the status of the bilateral peace signed by King Hussein and the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in October, 1994. His points may be far-fetched, but they do reflect the thinking of Jordan's large if not dominant Palestinian inhabitants.

"Many Jordanians see Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians as confirming the Israeli desire to assert Israeli supremacy in the region," he writes. "This is further complicated by the reality that several million Jordanians of Palestinian origin claim restitution from the Israeli state of lands and economic interest that Israel has neither addressed nor even acknowledged."

One can only hope that opening of unfettered channels of communications between the two nations will dispel Khouri's notion of "Israel's arrogance or its exaggerated sense of superiority and unilateralism."

A regular flow of stories in Hebrew datelined Amman and in Arabic datelined Jerusalem could overcome such misguided perceptions.

The writer is with the Chicago-Sun Times.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Not so fast to begin with, this turtle plods through the mucky Hula. It's hard to say where it is going when this photo was taken in 1955, but we can't imagine it has yet arrived. (Werner Braun)

POSTSCRIPTS

JOUNI JUSSILA is a sports champion. His wife is mere luggage.

Jussila and his tiny wife Tiina romped through a grueling obstacle course in Finland to become the first wife-carrying champion of the world.

The Finnish laborer outshopped a field of 32 pairs over the 235 meter course.

Cheered on by nearly 5,000 highly partisan spectators, he took home a mobile phone, a check for \$250, a loaf of rye bread and, most importantly, his wife's weight - 44 liters - in beer.

The Rabelaisian contest is rooted in the legend of Ronkainen the Robber, said in the 19th century to have tested aspiring members of his gang by forcing them to lug sacks of grain or live swine over a similar course. It also purportedly stems from an even earlier tribal practice of wife-stealing - in honor of which, many contestants now take up the challenge with someone else's wife.

A Swedish TV journalist, who participated in the race, said: "The Finns have a bizarre sense of reality."

IN A COUNTRY wild about beauty contests, the newest title at stake in the Philippines is "Miss Rat."

In this case, it's all talent and not looks - the title will go to the woman who kills the largest number of rodents, which have been ravaging farms in much of the nation.

Ironically, this is the Year of the Rat in the Oriental zodiac.

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Turkey's shameful occupation

UNITED Nations leaders have always loved citing Cyprus as one of their peacekeeping success stories. This is, and always has been, arrant nonsense. Cyprus had been a powderkeg waiting to explode since Turkey launched, and got away with, an invasion of the island in 1974 every bit as brutal as Saddam Hussein's annexation of Kuwait. The Cyprus problem is a problem of invasion and occupation that simply has not been addressed by the international community. The recent renewed clashes demonstrate that the time is long overdue for the world to wake up to the serious dangers posed by Turkey's intransigent refusal to accept the long proposed demilitarization of Cyprus and creation of a binational federal republic.

UN officials have been known to plead that since Cyprus has been at de facto peace since 1974, a final de jure solution there can wait the fullness of time. This again is further nonsense. It is only when the so-called UN success stories are put to the test, they begin to fall apart. Cyprus is at peace since 1974 in the same way that Kuwait would have been at peace if all its citizens had been driven out and Iraqis settled there. The United Nations and the Western powers have played the hypocrites in Cyprus for too long. The north of Cyprus was ravaged and ethnically cleansed by the Turkish army. The properties of all its Greek Cypriot residents were simply stolen and handed to Turkish Cypriots and tens of thousands of mainland Turks who were brought over to settle the territory.

There was no Operation Desert Storm to save Cyprus. In 1974, the Cold War was still at its peak, and NATO ally Turkey was far too important to deserve anything more than a slap on the wrist for assaulting its island neighbor. Neither has there been in 22 years any hint of a Dayton peace settlement, enforceable by NATO, for the unfortunate Cypriots. It is scarcely surprising that the anger of Greek Cypriots and their supporters boil over occasionally in demonstrations on the island. Neither is it surprising that the Turks react with the savagery typical of their traditional handling of Cyprus. As if the scenes of a Greek Cypriot demonstrator being beaten to death by an ugly mob last week was not enough, the Turkish army followed it by using overwhelming gunfire against an unarmed demonstrator climbing a flagpole.

Even the usually mealy-mouthed UN headquarters in Nicosia was obliged to protest strongly "the totally unwarranted use of force by Turkish or Turkish Cypriot military personnel." The demonstrator was shot five times while climbing a flagpole to tear down a Turkish banner on the Green Line. "Turkish or Turkish Cypriot soldiers then proceeded to fire some 25 to 50 rounds indiscriminately into the crowd inside the buffer zone," the UN statement added.

The US House of Representatives a year ago approved a long-overdue resolution - too little and too late - describing Turkish military occupation of northern Cyprus as unacceptable and demanding complete demilitarization of the divided country. While the unity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital gets a good share of international debate, the scandal of the totally divided ancient city of Nicosia goes mostly unremarked. The suspicion is that many of the principals in the Cyprus affair continue to turn a blind eye because their past record on it is so appalling they would rather forget it.

Turkey has always refused to accept that Cyprus, a patently Greek island through and through, was just one more victim of Ottoman greed in this region. When the Ottomans vanished, Turkish claims to Cyprus should have vanished with them. The British Empire acquired, ruled and finally quit Cyprus with characteristic deviousness. When Greek Cypriots objected to their rule in the 1950s, the British created ethnic division by fanning bitter non-existent Turkish nationalism, recruiting Turkish Cypriot policemen to flush out Greek Cypriot rebels.

After independence was won in 1960, Greece refused to accept it, and sent in the neo-fascist underground of George Grivas to overthrow Archbishop Makarios. The Greek military junta in Athens was heavily supported by a United States then busy countering Soviet Communism by encircling it with right-wing regimes. After the Athens-made coup in 1974, Turkey seized the opportunity to invade Cyprus in a brutal operation proudly code-named "Attila." United Nations troops, sent in the 1960s to prevent ethnic clashes, simply fled before the Turks. Some 200,000 of the 500,000 Greek Cypriots were driven across the ceasefire line at the point of Turkish guns. Their properties were expropriated and every trace of Greek culture was expunged from the north. Ancient Byzantine churches were stripped of their paintings, Greek artifacts and museum contents were shipped overseas for sale to avid collectors. Turkey augmented the small Turkish Cypriot population by flooding Cyprus with tens of thousands of its less desirable citizens from Anatolia.

Many wondered in subsequent years why the Greek Cypriots - formidable fighters against the British - failed to harass the occupation forces, accepting their fate with much diplomatic noise, but no action. The answer is simple - the Turkish army declared its intention of taking the whole island if a shot were fired. Turkey, while denying at that time even the existence of the Kurds its army was killing on the mainland, pleaded that it was upholding the minority rights of the Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus.

It is high time someone impressed on Ankara that majorities also have their rights. Those of the Greek Cypriots have been trampled on for too long.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LONG-TERM VISION

Sir, - The cabinet has agreed effectively to end the four-year freeze on settlement construction in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The move was described by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as correcting "the discrimination against Jewish settlement" over the Green Line. This makes sense. The basis upon which to encourage growth in settlements should never have been a line of any color that we might not have wanted to abide by in the future.

However, by strengthening settlements everywhere, are we not setting ourselves - and those people who would be moving to those areas - up for a fall? Is Netanyahu making a negotiating ploy on the backs of settlers, or does the cabinet's decision fall in line with a long-awaited, long-term plan?

It is possible that the existence and the growth of settlements caused the Palestinians to realize that they had better get moving on reaching an agreement with Israel before it became too late. And the reality of an increasing Jewish population may well serve as an advantage in negotiations. Yet this does not preclude the possibility that not all the settlements will be able to be annexed when the final lines are drawn. It seems every bit as thoughtless and irrational to encourage people to move to settlements in densely populated Arab areas that may not ultimately end up being part of Israel as it was for the previous

government to grant autonomy to Palestinians in areas located right in the middle of densely-populated Jewish areas that undoubtedly will be part of Israel forever.

Now that final-status negotiations are near, it would seem prudent to have our settlement policy go hand-in-hand with our vision of the map we can agree to live with in the future. Demanding "peace now" with no plan for security and reciprocal commitment is shortsighted. Immediate gratification does not necessarily bode well for future satisfaction. However, haphazardly caving in to demands from the right to enhance growth in settlements regardless of where they are located is equally lacking in vision.

What is crucial at this juncture is a long-term plan, something we can see ourselves "settling for." Such a map may not be ideal, but it may be the only workable one. It may not encompass every centimeter of land, but it should allow for the eventual annexation of the majority of Jewish settlements, while leaving the majority of Palestinians on the other side of a secure and defensible border.

Only with that long-term vision in mind should the decision be made on which settlements to strengthen, and which areas should get the lion's share of the very limited resources the government has to offer.

SHACHAR LOSHINSKY
Jerusalem.

SECURITY PRISONERS

Sir, - I am at a loss to understand why the two Arab security prisoners who tunneled their way out of Ashmoret Prison, worked so arduously for several months to escape to freedom.

If only they waited a little longer... they, too, like thousands of Arab terrorists, including murderers with "Jewish blood on their hands," could have been "pardoned" and released by the Israeli government.

SHIFRA HOFFMAN,
Founder and President,
Victims of Arab Terror
International
Jerusalem.

PILLARS OF PEACE

Sir, - Moshe Kohn (A View from Nov, July 26) tries oh so very hard to make Netanyahu look good, but of course he doesn't succeed. He tries to prove to us that Bibi's remarks about democracy in his famous speech to Congress do not imply that he won't make peace with the Arabs until they become more democratic.

But Netanyahu's remarks about democracy were made as an integral part of his statements about "three pillars of peace." The first "pillar" was "security." Netanyahu said he won't make peace with any Arabs who persist in terrorism or violence. The second "pillar" was "reciprocity," that is, we were to understand from this that Israel would take no steps toward reconciliation and peace unless the Arabs fulfilled their commitments as promised.

And the third "pillar" on which peace depends, he said, is democracy among our Arab neighbors. He did to say that we will wait with peace until they become more democratic, but putting "democracy" in the same context as "security" and "reciprocity," we can infer that that was what he meant. In other words, according to Bibi, peace may just a well wait for another generation or two.

Moshe Kohn would do better to use his extensive scriptural knowledge to write an article about false or inept advisers, such as Ahitophel.

MOSHE KERN
Tel Aviv.

REFORM JUDAISM

Sir, - I refer to Yoel Lerner's letter of August 2 about Reform Judaism.

The writer appears to be totally ignorant of the facts. Reform liturgy bears no resemblance whatsoever to that of Christian churches. I write from experience, having been sheltered by a Christian family during the war years (1939-45).

I think Mr. Lerner is confusing Reform Judaism with Messianic Judaism. The two have no connection at all.

P. SINCLAIR
Netanya.

NEW POSTING

Sir, - In your article of August 1, "Levy recalls Labor appointees from posts abroad," your reporter refers to foreign ministry diplomat Colene Avital.

Ms. Avital is a professional career diplomat with many years in the service of the ministry and the State of Israel. She is currently completing her four-year posting as Israel's Consul-General in New York and will be returning to the ministry in the near future in order to take up a senior post.

DANIEL SHEK,
Spokesman,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jerusalem.

מלך מן האלה

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, August 18, 1996



Walking the plank

Hyde spikes Dole's message of abortion tolerance

BY HANNA ROSIN

U.S. presidential candidate Bob Dole has every reason to be irked at Henry Hyde. In June, Dole dreamed up the perfect valentine to woo the party's moderate women: a verse of tolerance, inserted into the abortion plank. Then Hyde, the chairman of the party platform committee, ruined the romance. "I will not provide cover for something I don't believe in," Hyde fumed, and then publicly threatened to quit. Dole called an emergency one-hour session with Hyde. He emerged haggard, waved off reporters and slinked into a tinted-windowed van. Two days later Dole agreed to a general statement of tolerance instead of a new abortion plank. So was Dole miffed about Hyde's bull-headedness? "Not at all," an aide says. "Dole has tremendous respect for Henry. He's a man of great principle."

Nobody, it seems, is ever mad at Henry Hyde. In his two decades in Congress, the 72-year-old Illinois Republican has built a reputation of being, oddly, both obstinate and tolerant, of holding offensive positions yet offending almost no one. As a freshman he wrote the most rigid anti-abortion bill ever passed by Congress — the Hyde Amendment — which bans federally funded abortions for poor women. Those who might find his abortion amendment odious still lavish him with praise.

Already Hyde has brought his courtly manners to bear and saved Dole from a potential convention squabble. All delegates to the convention fill out questionnaires, naming their preferences for which of the six platform committees they want to sit on. The convention chair, GOP operative Paul Manafort, opted to ignore their choices and divide them according to his own rating system: "firmly Dole" or "marginally Dole." But Hyde overruled him. "They wanted Hyde to go in there and give a speech to the delegates about the need to subjugate personal choices after we've just dished 85 percent of them," says a frustrated GOP source on Hyde's side. "They would sit there seething, and we'd have no credibility."

The abortion compromise was also a skillful piece of work. At first, it seemed likely to cause rancor. Dole and Hyde had settled on keeping the constitutional amendment to ban abortion, and adding a condemnation of late-term abortions. To soothe moderates, they added two anonymous statements calling for a "broad and diverse party" that "recognizes sometimes differing views on issues of personal conscience, such as capital

punishment and abortion." Both sides were grumbling. On the pro-choice side, Olympia Snowe blasted the new language as "harsh, unworkable and unforgiving." Gov. William Weld complained it was "begrudging" toward his side, and both vowed to continue the fight. Tamer pro-lifers such as Ralph Reed hailed the decision as a "major victory," but Pat Buchanan, Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council and Phyllis Schlafly of the Eagle Forum were irate. They called it "unacceptable" to describe abortion as a matter of personal conscience.

Yet a few weeks later both sides had lost their steam. Amid their fury, the pro-choice moderates planned a press conference, complete with charts and graphs showing that every part of the country contained a large majority of pro-choice voters. They planned to launch a strategy to win over enough delegates to make Dole change the plank. But when they got to the event, the hard game plan dissipated into wispy rhetoric.

The pro-lifers are harder to read, but at least some are appeased. Gary Bauer has been reduced to holding a "book signing" and a "coffee table thing" (his description) at the convention. Buchanan will rage, but half an hour away, at a field in Escondido, Calif. Even the more unbridled will hold their fire, especially if they know Hyde. As executive director of Illinois' Pro-Life Action League, Joseph Scheidler spends his evenings picking fetus heads out of the garbage ("found about 5,000 so far"). Scheidler is furious the platform will call abortion a matter of "personal conscience" because "it's a simple matter of right and wrong, cold-blooded murder, exactly the same as blowing up a 747." He minces no words over Susan Molinari, the pro-choice convention keynoter. "She's perky?" Scheidler asks. "Hitler was perky sometimes; he did that little dance. Probably the devil is perky." But Hyde? "We love Henry dearly.... He probably in his heart believes as strongly as we do. But he's in a position where he has to deal with the party."

The civility that has made Hyde a credible and respected champion of the anti-abortion stance has played less well in the Congress of Newt Gingrich. Sadly, his victory for the Dole campaign may be the congressman's twilight moment, a final coup for an ambassador of an earlier era. In a House that values lockstep loyalty, Hyde floats freely. At a subcommittee hearing on school prayer, Hyde is a relic. Chairman Charles Canady of Florida, smug in his leather throne, takes turns with Bob Inglis badgering witnesses. Canady needs a woman from the National School Boards Association; then Inglis thumps the table and

waves his fist, trying to make her admit she envies the success of Catholic schools, unaware he is scaring the audience. From the back of the room you can see Hyde cringe and raise his eyes to the gilded ceiling as if looking for revelation.

When it's his turn to speak, Hyde undoes some damage: "There are so many witnesses here of such high quality," he begins, in a gentle rebuke to his colleague, "that I don't have time to address them all.... The races are further apart than they've ever been, yet each of us is made in the image of God. You can't get respect outside the fatherhood of God. Why are we fighting? I'm not a Muslim, but I respect the mosque.... This culture is dying, going down, down, down, and the only way to save it is to raise your eyes up. I'm not a preacher, I'm a sinner. Let it be a cross on the wall or a Star of David, anything, but some objective standard of morality."

For all its hellfire rhetoric, the speech is a balm. Men relax, women loosen their grips on their children. Hyde's soothing voice fills the cavernous room, and settles on the audience like angel dust.

Hyde means the speech to showcase his skills as an orator, above the quibblings of his vulgar colleagues. But his younger colleagues see it differently. "He is pathologically civil," says one Republican member of the committee. "It's at the level of doctrine, like he thinks he's Churchill or something."

Just two years ago, Hyde was the leading contender to succeed Bob Michel as House speaker. It's tempting to imagine the world with Hyde as speaker. Doffed hats in the hallways, the heirs to the Founding Fathers barding it out in committee rooms. Even the threat of abortion tyranny would be amply compensated. For Hyde's rigidity on the issue only obscures his tolerant worldview. More typical of the old world congressman is his stand on gun control, where he breaks ranks with GOP orthodoxy and opposes repealing the assault-weapons ban — exactly the type of reasoning that would appeal to the moderate women Dole is courting. But it was not to be. "To his credit, he's his own man," says a colleague who knows him well. "But a slight touch of laziness has set in over the years, a feeling that Henry Hyde's not going to kill himself going to meetings from 8 in the morning until 8 at night making sure every faction is happy. The prize isn't worth that to him." Maybe that's why Dole can empathize.

Hanna Rosin is an associate editor of *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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Clinton wimps out on China

BY JOSHUA MURAVCHIK

In a now-familiar summer ritual, Congress acquiesced in U.S. President Bill Clinton's renewal of China's Most Favored Nation trading status. Faced with the annual pleas from human-rights groups and jibes from Republicans, the Clintonites argued, as they have for two years, that trade and human rights should be decoupled. There are more effective and less dangerous ways, they said, to show solidarity with reformers in China.

Should we take such arguments seriously? Go back to 1993, when Clinton publicly threatened not to renew MFN the following year if China didn't show progress in seven specific human-rights categories. When the summer of 1994 rolled around, China had shown no improvement in five, the administration admitted. Clinton was forced into an agonizing about-face: this was when he first announced the "delinking" position. He renewed MFN but adamantly insisted the decision did not spell an end of American efforts to promote Chinese democracy.

As proof, Clinton announced a "new human-rights strategy" to appease his critics. It consisted of a statement of principles to guide American firms doing business in China; a Radio Free Asia to broadcast into the mainland; heightened condemnation of Chinese human-rights violations within international forums; and increased support for Chinese non-governmental organizations "working to advance the cause of human rights."

California Congressman Tom Lantos took up the first element of this strategy. He introduced a bill to create a code of conduct for American firms in China analogous to the "Sullivan principles" in apartheid South Africa. The bill imposed no criminal penalties for firms flouting the code. It merely denied them American diplomatic aid in securing Chinese contracts. But it still proved too strong for Clinton. Instead, the administration issued new guidelines. These included no incentive for compliance, and they applied to U.S. companies throughout the world, making no special mention of China.

The second element was a Radio Free Asia. In 1992, after testimonials citing the remarkable success of U.S. broadcasting to Eastern Europe during the cold war, a joint presidential-congressional study commission recommended setting up a similar service to reach China and Asia's other totalitarian regimes. During the presidential campaign, Clinton endorsed the idea, but, when diplomats suggested it wouldn't offend Chinese government sensibilities, he promptly put it on the back burner. In 1994, Clinton said he had ordered "increased broadcasts for Radio Free Asia," an extraordinary statement since, thanks to him, it didn't exist. It still doesn't.

The third part of Clinton's agenda was to enlist other countries in the effort to improve the human-rights situation in China. The U.S. would "insist that the U.S. Human Rights Commission pass a resolution dealing with the serious human-rights abuses in China." We have never won such a vote, and this year we lost ground: Beijing managed to block even its consideration. This setback is attributable partly to changes in the composition of the Human Rights Commission and waffling by some European democracies, but the administration's half-hearted effort was also responsible. "Months of divisions in Washington and mixed signals from the Clinton Administration on how it would deal with Beijing's human-rights record," *The New York Times* reported, had allowed China to launch a successful "international campaign against the measure."

Clinton's final initiative was to "support the many new private organizations springing up in China and working... to express their views on a range of subjects including human rights." At best, this was wishful thinking. During the liberalization of the 1980s, such entities did emerge, but after Tiananmen they were all suppressed. Non-governmental organizations were replaced by what people in the field call "gangs," short for "governmental nongovernmental organizations." These are nominally independent groups controlled by the state. Recently, some more autonomous groups have begun to re-emerge, but none of them expresses unauthorized views, especially not on human rights. None has yet to receive U.S. governmental assistance.

Alternatively, the Clinton Administration could have pursued reform by increasing support, possibly through the National Endowment for Democracy, to Chinese human rights and democracy groups in exile. There are many such groups, all operating on a shoestring, and they find ways to transmit their views into China. But no such increase has been proposed.

When Bill Clinton announced in 1994 he would grant China Most Favored Nation trading status in perpetuity, he might have argued that America's economic interests in China, and our desire not to provoke a new cold war, simply outweighed our concern for human rights. But he did not make that argument. Rather, he insisted that human rights in China still mattered to his administration, that the debate between supporters and opponents of MFN was over means, not principles. Two years ago, it was possible to take that argument seriously. Today it no longer is.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Self-esteem and education: America's feel-good trap

BY RICHARD WEISSBOURD

In the last 25 years, self-esteem has become a watchword in American education. Some schools have set up self-esteem classes and days. Others tack posters to the walls that exhort and praise: "You Can Do Anything," "You Are Beautiful."

Plenty of liberals as well as conservatives agree that this attention to self-esteem is not just useless but dangerous. Yet the self-esteem movement has at least tried to deal with serious problems that its critics have ignored. Indeed, the critics' back-to-basics call to teach just reading and writing will also fail large numbers of children. Instead, educators need to embark on a third path: developing a wide range of intellectual and social skills in children, and creating more sustained relationships between children and adults.

For good reason. Thousands of studies on self-esteem have shown that the tenets of the movement just don't hold up. While there are different definitions of self-esteem and problems in measuring it, a multitude of studies reach the same findings. Programs to raise self-esteem are not raising it. And the very premise that greater self-esteem will boost academic achievement is simply wrong. Self-esteem has little or no impact on academic achievement, or on drug use, violence or any other serious problems. Violent criminals, studies show, often have high self-esteem. And black children already have levels of self-esteem similar to white children. They take an equally positive view of themselves, but they're less likely to have a sense of efficacy; they see the outside world as placing obstacles in their path.

What's going on? For one thing, self-esteem doesn't lead to greater academic achievement unless a child values such achievement, and it's no secret that large numbers of children don't. Nor should we expect self-esteem to reduce violence or encourage ethical self-conduct. Self-esteem comes in part from feeling powerful, and playground bullies, violent gang leaders and all sorts of other non-academic achievers can feel powerful. If children grow up in cultures that condone unethical conduct, they may end up feeling good about such conduct.

The self-esteem movement has often been harmful. Children know when they have really accomplished something and when they haven't, and too much unconditional praise produces not self-confidence but cynicism about adults and doubts about themselves. Talking about children's selves all the time can also teach them to make how they feel about themselves paramount.

All this advertises for seriously rethinking the entire self-esteem movement. Some of this rethinking has argued that self-esteem is the result of academic achievement, not vice versa; others say academic achievement is important for its own sake, regardless of what it does for self-esteem. Both groups argue that schools should be dedicated to academic achievement — in some cases to rudimentary skills.

There's no question schools should focus on academic achievement, both for its own sake and because it builds self-esteem in some (though not all) children.

Yes, children should be aware of racism and discrimination, but no amount of talking about discrimination can substitute for raising nonwhite children's achievements. And the focus on self-esteem has sometimes, as critics contend, detracted from academics: teachers dumb down curricula, inflate grades and avoid discussing real academic problems with parents.

Nonetheless, to harp on academic achievement is irrelevant and insulting to most educators. It simply doesn't answer the question they struggle with daily. Most teachers care deeply that children learn basic skills. The problem is how to overcome the hurdles that interfere with that learning. Educators know what self-esteem critics don't: that huge numbers of children suffer from social and emotional problems that both shrink their self-esteem and choke their ability to learn. Some children can't concentrate in class, for instance, because they have been abandoned by a parent, or because their violence-wracked neighborhoods deprive them of an elementary sense of control, or because they live with caregivers who are too depressed to be involved in their lives. For all its failings, the self-esteem movement has at least tried to deal with these problems. To talk of academic achievement without addressing these devastating troubles is fantasy.

Programs to raise self-esteem are not raising it. And the very premise that greater self-esteem will boost academic achievement is simply wrong.

Further, academic achievement often doesn't boost self-esteem. Many children, girls especially, achieve at high levels yet have little self-esteem. And anyone who believes academic achievement is a royal road to self-esteem should spend time with first-year law students at Harvard, who are disgusted with themselves because they find themselves ranked not at the top but wallowing somewhere in the middle of their classes.

Finally, harping on achievement ignores the evidence that both effectiveness in adult life and self-esteem depend on a wide range of intellectual and social competencies. Harvard education professor Howard Gardner has documented many different types of intelligence, including interpersonal skills, that are crucial to success in adult life. Cultivating capacities such as self-awareness, control of one's impulses and persistence needn't detract from teaching academics. Good teachers build these competencies in the course of academic instruction.

Schools need to forget about self-esteem altogether as an explicit goal. They should instead set high expectations of children, cultivate in them a wide range of competencies, coping strategies and ethical sensibilities, and show them the value of these abilities. Non-white children need to be given tools for understanding and responding to discrimination while still meeting high academic expectations.

To prepare children for adult

life schools also need to focus on something else, which neither self-esteem proponents nor critics talk about. Critical qualities that children need to develop for adulthood — persistence, the capacity to handle shame and disappointment, the ability to recognize the needs of others and to balance them with one's own — cannot be simply transmitted. They are the ingredients of maturity, and this kind of maturity typically develops when children have a certain kind of relationship with adults.

The psychoanalyst Heinz Kohut argues that a child's self matures in two ways: by being mirrored by adults and by being esteemed by consistent, admired adults. By "mirroring," Kohut meant that all children need adults who listen to and understand them and regularly reflect their understandings; such reflections develop children's sense of coherence and rightness in the world. Kohut also recognized that at certain stages of development every child needs adults whom he or she idealizes. Psychologists have long recognized that in adolescence children get a second chance to internalize the confident expectations of esteemed adults. That chance should not be squandered.

To listen and reflect, adults need first to spend more time with children. The self-esteem movement's constant praising of children is a shortcut, a desperate substitute for the inability of teachers and other adults to pay sufficient attention to any one child. But time and attention are real to a child in ways that praise is not. Parents, of course, best provide this time and attention, but when parents cannot or do not do so, other adults should. This doesn't entail "baby-sitting." It means spending a few (or more) hours a week listening to, challenging and developing the strengths of a child.

Schools need to push beyond the academic achievement versus self-esteem debate and embark on a variety of strategies that involve adults more in children's lives. Class sizes need to come down. Schools need to work harder to involve parents, including absentee fathers, in their children's education. And schools need to keep trying to bring more adults into children's lives who are worthy of esteem by making teaching and other types of work with children more attractive, including through higher status and better pay. Granted, this all amounts to a tall order. Yet these steps, taken together, would be far more meaningful than focusing simply on a nostrum like returning to basics, or on a spurious metasolution like self-esteem.

Richard Weissbourd is the author of *The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children and What We Can Do About It* from Addison Wesley. This article first appeared in *The New Republic*.

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TRAILER PARK PATRIOTISM



'Urban crisis' won't be issue this presidential election

BY NATHAN GLAZER

In 1977, U.S. President Jimmy Carter came to the South Bronx; posed among the ruins and said that now that he was president something would be done. In 1980, U.S. presidential candidate Ronald Reagan came to the South Bronx, posed among the ruins and said if he were president something would be done. Can you imagine candidates Bill Clinton or Bob Dole doing something similar this year?

The "urban crisis," which played so large a role in U.S. politics in the late 1960s and 1970s, will not, we can be confident, be an issue this election. Not that it won't be discussed in some other context. But the term "urban crisis" was more than shorthand for the poverty and crime, poor housing and poor schools that plagued cities then, and remain today. It implied an approach to those problems — symbolized by the visits of politicians to scenes of urban disaster. This was something the U.S. federal government could and should do something about.

To speak of a national urban crisis meant that devastated inner cities were not simply matters for New York, or Chicago, or Detroit, but a national problem like the Depression of the 1930s, out of which came, for example, federal public housing. And the federal government, which had devised a national program of urban renewal in the 1950s and 1960s, was expected to respond.

But by the late 1970s the U.S. government already faced substantial deficits, and what it could, or should, do was no longer clear. Reagan settled the issue: Washington would do as little as possible. His critique of wasteful and mindless federal spending was not entirely wrong. Nonetheless, the case for deep federal involvement in the problems of cities, as a matter of logic or even justice, was persuasive then, and it is persuasive now.

For 50 years, urban experts have argued that the federal government bears some responsibility for urban blight because of two major federal programs: It made it easier for people to buy homes through programs of mortgage assistance and rationalization, which began in the Depression and expanded in the postwar years; and it built a major system of federal freeways, which made it easier for aspiring homeowners to move to the suburbs, where land was cheaper. Cities had once dominated their hinterlands, annexing additional land as they developed, but in most of the United States this was no longer possible.

The wealthier suburbs did not want to be annexed, and state law protected them. Cities were left to cope with their problems without

the resources of an entire interlinked metropolitan region, because the suburbs did not want to be subjected to higher city taxation, even though many who lived in the suburbs worked in the city and drew their income from it.

There's more. The federal government also imposed expensive mandates on cities (for example, expensive requirements governing the education of handicapped children). And one effect of the federal programs encouraging home ownership and mobility was to contribute to the separation of black and white, and to reduce the resources available in cities for the assistance of the urban poor, increasingly black, or in some places, immigrant. Poverty, race, immigration — these are, after all, national problems.

One reason the presidential candidates won't go to the South Bronx is that the photo opportunities are not as good as they were for Carter and Reagan. There has been so much new building and rehabilitation of trashed apartment housing that the background of urban devastation is no longer impressive.

Metropolitan government was once seen as a possible solution. By drawing the wealthier suburbs into a common political framework, the central cities would become less dependent on federal aid. But the suburbs, of course, were not interested. The United States is not Great Britain, where Parliament can shape city boundaries and responsibilities as it will. The federal government can't, and the states won't, unless one can prove that rigid state and town boundaries infringe on the constitutional rights of minorities. (In New Jersey, the plaintiffs have made just such a case in the lengthy Mt. Laurel litigation, the subject of two recent books — *Suburbs Under Siege*, by Charles Haar, and *Our Town: Race, Housing and the Soul of Suburbia*, by David Kirp, John Dwyer and Larry Rosenthal. New Jersey now requires suburban towns to enact zoning regulations that permit denser, cheaper housing.)

So the cities are saddled with problems that are, for the most part, beyond their capacity to deal with, and for which they are, local

mismanagement notwithstanding, mostly not responsible. Yet today's political realities are such that major outside assistance, whether from regional, state or federal government, will not come. The riots of the late 1960s spurred a good deal of federal assistance, but the condition of the federal budget in the 1990s, with its huge fixed and rising costs for Social Security, Medicare and debt management, is such that even riots will not matter now.

While the mayors complain bitterly, and justly, a strange thing has happened: As federal aid has dried up, as hope for new programs has waned, it has turned out that many cities can attack problems and even undertake major improvements with their own resources, public and private. One reason the presidential candidates won't go to the South Bronx is that the photo opportunities are not as good as they were for Carter and Reagan. There has been so much new building and rehabilitation of trashed apartment housing that the background of urban devastation is no longer impressive. New York City has poured billions of dollars into this effort, has found scores of community groups willing and able to serve as developers and landlords, and has built many new and rehabilitated housing units using a creative mix of city, state and federal funds. This was not the best way for New York to deal with its housing problems: the abolition of rent control, the shrinking of the regulatory maze, the reduction of its crippling tax burdens, would have been infinitely better, but those were no more likely politically than was expanded federal aid. And the new pattern of small-scale community housing is at least better than the huge housing projects that New York threw up with abandon in the age of federal largess.

Other cities have done other things. Many are building enormously expensive stadiums in their misguided competition for sports teams. The cities somehow find the resources for these. (The federal government, with no intention to do so, helps — they are largely built with tax-exempt bonds.) In other cities we have seen elaborate new central libraries, museums and restored waterfronts, with minimal federal aid.

Cities have been managing, some wisely, many otherwise, some not at all owing to the scale of their problems. But what the demise of the urban crisis as a national issue reflects is not only that there's no point in trying to get more from the scrapped federal government, but also that when central cities are thrown on their own resources, there is still much they can do. That, at least, is good news.

Nathan Glazer is a contributing editor to *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

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Republican platform settles abortion issue

BY ROBERT NOVAK

SAN DIEGO—The amicable settlement of the abortion issue in the U.S. Republican platform was achieved only after Bob Dole's agents overrode the U.S. Republican presidential candidate's persistent desire to battle pro-life forces.

Dole had to be talked into accepting elimination of the word abortion from platform language promising tolerance of dissenting views in order to satisfy the pro-lifers. When pro-choice Republicans threatened a floor fight, Dole was ready to try to prevent that by abandoning his agreement with the pro-life movement.

U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, platform committee chairman, and convention manager Paul Manafort are credited by insiders with heading off this disaster. They devised the expedient publishing of the rejected pro-choice positions as an "appendix" to the platform which was then presented to the candidate as a fait accompli.

PETE WILSON'S MOTIVES

The low esteem for California Gov. Pete Wilson held by Dole and national Republican leaders dropped even deeper when Wilson grabbed headlines across the country with a dramatic news conference in San Diego threatening a convention floor fight on abortion.

Wilson's intervention aroused speculation that, after his truncated 1996 bid for president, he was staking out early ground for the 2000 campaign. But Dole operatives grumbled that Wilson was just reflecting his frustration over a miserable political year.

The governor did not think it was a good idea to put the convention in his hometown of San Diego, has been critical of the way the convention is being managed and feels he has not been given due respect as host governor.

BILL BENNETT'S PROBLEM

Values guru William J. Bennett has told friends he turned aside a serious chance to become Bob Dole's running mate because of the deep invasion of privacy such a campaign would require.

Bennett decided, after long consultation with his wife, Elaine, that he would not subject his family to the scrutiny of a national campaign. He feared his vice presidential candidacy would entail disclosure of the considerable fortune he has amassed since leaving his last government post as federal drug czar, as well as deep probing into his and his wife's past.

ANOTHER QUAYLE PROBLEM

Operatives handling logistics for the Republican National Convention were ready to identify their biggest single problem: Dan Quayle.

The former vice president is demanding limousines, extra rooms and security. Quayle is not on the convention speaking schedule and has no particular role in the proceedings.

But he obviously would like to make an impact at San Diego. Having turned down a golden chance to run for governor of Indiana this year, Quayle is aiming at a presidential run in 2000.

WHO'S THAT DELEGATE?

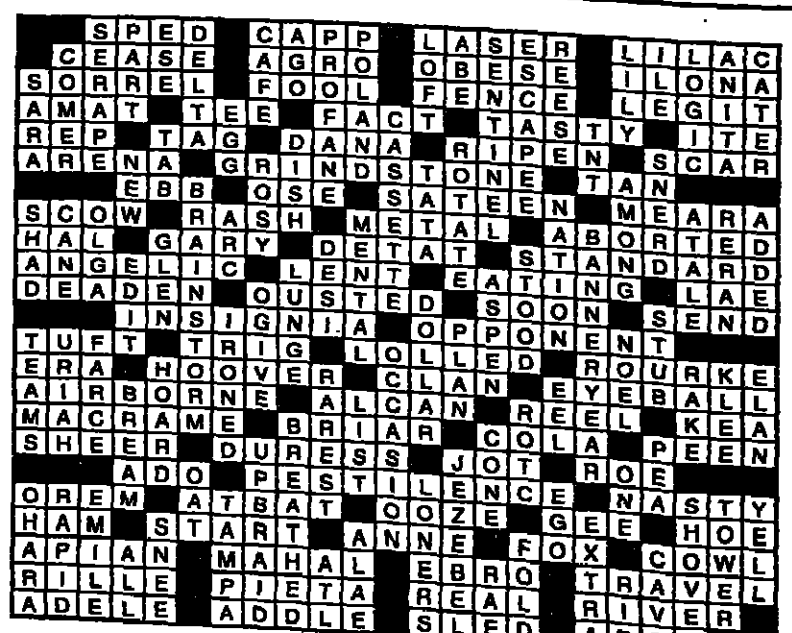
Members of the Republican platform committee were stunned to find that one of their fellow delegates writing the party's official document was none other than conservative activist Floyd Brown, author of the notorious 1988 Willie Horton television commercial.

More recently, Brown ran a Washington-based operation dispensing scandalous information about President Clinton. But he recently moved to Spokane, Wash., won election as a convention delegate from that state and was named to the platform committee by the state's delegation.

Brown did not hide himself in the platform proceedings. He proposed amendments that would abolish the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Legal Services Corporation. All of Brown's proposals ended up in the final version of the platform.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

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Aharon Appelfeld: The man and the writer

SITTING back at the cafe table where he was writing his latest novel about life on either side of the fault line of the Holocaust, Aharon Appelfeld resolutely brushes off questions about his current work.

"Why should we not begin the story from the beginning?" he asks. Then, firmly: "We shall begin from the beginning."

"I was born in a town called Czernovitz in 1932. When World War II broke out I was seven years old."

It has been a half-century and 26 books since Appelfeld made Israel his home. (His first book, *Smoke*, a collection of stories, was published in Israel in 1962). But unlike most authors in this relentlessly introspective country, Appelfeld makes no concessions to the time or place he lives in, refusing to write about Israeli politics or current affairs. His books, like his interviews, begin at what for him will always be the beginning: the vanishing of Europe's Jewish communities and his own childhood world.

"We were deported, first to the ghetto and then to a camp," Appelfeld said in a recent interview. "My mother and my grandmother were killed, and then I got separated from my father, and I was on my own."
The Holocaust is an overpowering presence in Appelfeld's books, but he never confronts its horrors head on. He has called it "beyond tragic" and said its enormity defies any attempt to describe or explain.

Instead, his characters move about in the years before the war, as the world closed in on Europe's Jews, and in its aftermath, or *Many Years Later When Everything Was Over*, as he entitles the post-war half of one of his books.

Appelfeld writes with a spare,

dreamlike quality that reflects his own child's-eye view of the horrors that surrounded him. His novels are filled with characters maddeningly blind to the signs of their approaching fate, yet so human, so like us in their weaknesses and mundane foibles, that in the end we are overwhelmed with the immensity of what has been lost.

In *The Age of Wonders*, a young Jewish boy and his family live in heart-aching denial as their world - Austria in the late 1930s - crumbles around them. "In the last, bitter months when he had been expelled from the gymnasium and they were gathering in the youth club yard wearing brown uniforms, he would sit for hours in his room, struggling with difficult Latin texts," Appelfeld writes. "... And thus, while everything around them warned of the approaching earthquake he was tied to algebra exercises, to analyzing complicated Latin sentences. It was his mother's wish."

Elsewhere Appelfeld writes of survivors like himself trying to find their place and meaning in a world where everything is different, but nothing has changed. "Even the Jewish shops have preserved their outward appearance, like the Lauffers' drapery shop," the same character in *The Age of Wonders* observes when he returns to his village, years after the war. "None of them have survived but their shop is still standing at exactly the same angle as before, perfectly preserved, even the geraniums in their pots. Now a different man is sitting there with a different woman. Strange - they don't look like murderers."

Appelfeld is perfectly rounded and completely bald, with a grandfatherly twinkle and old-world charm that make him seem



Aharon Appelfeld's writing began as a kind of therapy, 'to understand myself, where I am, to whom I belong.'

older than his 64 years. He and his wife Judith have three children: Meir, a painter in England, Yitzhak, who just finished a law degree, and Batya, a university

student. He grew up in the Bukovina region of Romania, today part of Ukraine. When the war began, he was sent first to the ghetto in

Czernovitz, then to a labor camp from which he escaped after several months, eight years old and completely alone. For the next 2 1/2 years, Appelfeld roamed the

Ukrainian countryside with a gang of half-criminals. In 1944, the Soviet army swept through and he joined them as a kitchen boy. Two years later - homeless, stateless, speaking half a dozen languages and literate in none - the 14-year-old Appelfeld came with a group of war orphans to Palestine.

His writing, he said, began as a kind of therapy, "to understand myself, where I am, to whom I belong." His books met with resistance in 1950s Israel, where literature was expected to glorify Zionist heroes and socialist ideals. Nobody wanted to read about flawed characters full of fears and weaknesses. And nobody wanted to read about the Holocaust. "Appelfeld," they told me, "Forget about the Holocaust. You're a Hebrew writer, you should write about the kibbutz."

That slowly changed, however, as a new generation of survivors' children sought out the past their parents had tried to bury. Appelfeld said the 1960s trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem also helped Israelis realize the Holocaust was something they could not hide. "We have to speak about it, and - if possible - with an insight," he said.

In Israel, Appelfeld threw himself into the study of Jewish literature and philosophy, as well as Torah, Talmud, Hebrew and even Yiddish.

It was ironic for the child of assimilated, German-speaking parents, who practiced no religion and forbade the speaking of Yiddish in their home.

"We were Jewish, yes, but we never spoke about it openly," Appelfeld said. "It was not something you should be proud of." His rediscovery of the Judaism of his grandparents - today he considers himself reli-

gious, although not practicing - "was a need," he said. "It was a need to be - what I should be. First of all a Jew, who identifies himself with the Jewish sources. Nothing Jewish should be alien to me."

As Appelfeld has aged and matured, his writing has grown from a deeply personal odyssey to a broader exploration of the Jew's role in the modern world and the very nature of that world. In *The Immortal Barfuss*, the title character says he expects "greatness of soul" from Holocaust survivors - a sentiment Appelfeld says he shares. "From people who have undergone such an experience you would expect a new world," he mused. "It is unbelievable that a person survived the Holocaust and then is just a normal person. It's terrible." But Appelfeld conceded that he has not always found that greatness of soul. "This is another thing that I'm exploring," he said. "What suffering does to us."

His books examine the tension between Jewishness and the desire, sometimes to the point of self-loathing, to be accepted by the outside world - a contradiction that continues today. "You can see it in Israel," Appelfeld said. "On one side there are the secular Jews, saying 'We want to be universal,' and on the other side the religious Jews saying 'Let us be Jewish.' These are two very strong elements. The elections were about it."

A modern Jew is caught between one whisper saying "Leave it ... it's provincial, it's a ghetto," and another saying, "It's good, it's warm, it's my tribe," Appelfeld said.

"More than trying to deliver a message, I'm trying to understand what a modern Jew is, to try to understand all the whis-

Sraya on Sraya: Literature under distress

DEAR Editor,

It was not altogether fair to ask me to write about myself. An honest autobiography, said Tolstoy, should not gloss over failures.

Nobody likes to admit failures - Tolstoy himself failed to do so. Even Rousseau in his *Confessions* was hardly honest - and Rousseau was a literary man.

The undersigned has failed to become a literary scholar, though he had intended to become one. When, as a boy, he was thinking of his future. But journalism, as he has painfully learned in the course of years, is akin to literature only because both arts use the same ingredients: words.

The writing germ was introduced into this 10-year old boy by his Hebrew teacher, Benno Schneider. He was a young actor in the Habima troupe, not many years older than his pupil. Benno's lessons consisted mostly of gossip about behind-the-scenes goings-on at the theater. He acquired a thick copy-book on which was written in big letters: The Collected Writings of S. Sraya. "Shapiro," he explained, was a hackneyed name; Sraya was rather unusual.

Together we began writing a novel about Reish-Lakish, the brigand turned talmudic sage. We had not advanced that far by the time I left Moscow with my parents.

We went to Poland, the birthplace of my father, in 1921. I entered the Hebrew secondary school in Bialistok. I protested vigorously - as Zionists, we were supposed to proceed straight to Palestine - to my father but my father argued that there was no business opportunity for a textile manufacturer in Tel Aviv. A few years later, driven out of Poland by antagonistic government policy, my parents went to France, and I was sent to the Herzliya secondary school in Tel Aviv in 1925.

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

Jaffa, Tel Aviv was disappointing: just a few white-washed little bungalows scattered on a distant dune. The Gymnasia, the most imposing building in town, was uninviting with its long grey echoing corridors. I found striking the crude individuality of teachers and fellow pupils - each was a lone star. The patina which permeates society after living together for a long time, had as yet been lacking among people who had come from widely disparate backgrounds. Their uniting force was intellectual: all had come here to learn Hebrew and expect a Jewish state to, one day, miraculously emerge.

A personal handicap was the stutter I had developed in Moscow after the death of my younger brother and the uncertainty of life under the Soviets. Death lurked around unexpected corners. Expressing an opinion or venturing a joke might be fatal. A friend of my parents who studied medicine was liquidated because he had remarked that some facilities of the old regime were no longer available. The story was told of a Jew who had been in the park hurrying home when he heard that the police were looking for a camel that had escaped from the zoo. "You are not a camel!" the Jew was informed, to which the Jew answered, "but just how would you prove it?"

Most of my friends at Herzliya Gymnasia belonged to socialist-minded groups and took part in public demonstrations carrying red banners. I could have told them that Russia was acutely anti-Zionist, but the first lesson one learns in a totalitarian state, simply by intuition, is not to volunteer information or state an opinion.

While in Paris, I was persuaded by a friend to edit the *Cahiers du*

Paris, where I joined my parents after leaving the Gymnasia, was a miserable place: grey, cold, impenetrable. We led an immigrant life - so different from the semi-bohemian atmosphere of the Latin Quarter where some of my schoolmates lived while they studied. My parents insisted I study architecture because it was considered a promising métier. I hated it. A long illness put an end to this idea. Helping my father in his small workshop took up most of my time, but somehow I managed to graduate from the Special School of French Teachers Abroad at the Sorbonne. I also attempted to study modern history, but this was halted by my return to Tel Aviv.

Napoleon's energetic propaganda campaigns fascinated me - the Soviets and the Nazis just followed Napoleon's steps. My tutor at the university encouraged me to pursue this subject for a degree, but it was not to be.

In Tel Aviv I found a low-paying position with the newly established daily paper, *Haboker*. I have always envied journalists who were able to pursue their academic studies while working on a daily basis. I failed abysmally.

Haboker, a frank political paper, was financed by General Zionists supporting the right-wing Yisrael Rokach, then mayor of Tel Aviv. One of Rokach's supporters suggested that I join the party. I refused. I believed that journalists should be free - and let the editor cross out what he did not like politically.

Haboker was virulently attacking kibbutzism, but some of my friends from school had founded kibbutz groups and I respected them. I thought they were doing a great service to Zionism.

While in Paris, I was persuaded by a friend to edit the *Cahiers du*

Betar. I have never joined *Betar*, but had seen no reason not to help young men with clear Zionist aspirations - though it was somewhat shocking to see them concentrating on just hating Mapai.

When in Bialistok my mother had been persuaded to let me join the Hashomer Hatzair movement. I was shocked when my instructor began praising Moscow. I never reported to Hashomer Hatzair when I came to Palestine.

Just before the establishment of the State of Israel, I joined *The Palestine Post*.

Moshe Brilliant, then head of the Tel Aviv bureau, was looking for somebody to translate the official communiques, which were being published in Hebrew. Never mind that my English was rudimentary, all Brilliant wanted was to learn the gist of the Hebrew text. The arrangement suited me fine. Surely, I felt, my work was quite temporary. There will be no difficulty to find work for one with the experience of a couple of years with *The Palestine Post*.

My assumption was false, however. Instead of translating the Hebrew, my efforts were directed for many years towards acquiring proficiency in a foreign language so I could be understood by native English speakers.

If that is not a complete fiasco for somebody who had aspired to regard journalism as Literature Under Distress - what is?



Seadla Gelb's new book provides a sometimes funny, sometimes sad but always honest perspective of life in the kibbutz. Creative illustrations drawn by fellow members of Kibbutz Kfar Blum and by relatives and friends from Israel and abroad, add a special dimension to the anecdotes which only a longtime member of a kibbutz could tell. Softcover, 190 pp. JP Price: NIS 42.00 incl. VAT, p. & p. For overseas airmail, please add NIS 15.00

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Dogs are not only man's best friend but are good for one's health. (Hanoch Gutman)

Pets are great for your health

A Jerusalem man recently had a heart attack.

When he had recovered and was ready to leave the hospital his cardiologist put him on a diet and told him to lower his cholesterol and shed several kilograms of weight.

He cautioned him that diet alone was not enough and instructed him to exercise.

The patient protested that exercise is boring. "So walk," said the doctor, "at least two kilometers a day." When the patient, an unmarried graphic artist, insisted that just walking without a destination was also not for him the doctor asked: "How do you feel about dogs?" The patient said he liked them and had, in fact, owned a dog when he was younger. "OK," said the doctor, "I want you to go straight to the animal shelter and get yourself a dog. And I want you to take that dog out for 15 minute walks twice a day and once, in the evening or early morning, for a full hour."

The patient agreed. Certainly this was a way of getting the sedentary artist to get up and move about. But there are other reasons why the doctor's advice was excellent.

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

At the City University of New York researcher Erica Friedman found that walking a dog is a good way for otherwise sedentary people to get exercise.

She found that dog owners, in a sampling of more than 100 people between 65 and 78, all had lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol levels and less heart complications.

At first it seemed that exercise alone was the factor but then, to her great surprise, when she did the same study on people of the same age and general health, she found the same results among people who kept cats as opposed to those who didn't.

She was forced to conclude that the difference was actually between pet keepers and non-pet keepers.

In Australia, Warwick Anderson and colleagues studied lifestyles and general conditions of 5,741 patients who were attending a heart disease reduction clinic. They found that 784 of the patients who had a dog, cat, aquarium fish or cage birds had 2 to 4

percent lower blood cholesterol and consistently lower blood pressure.

They concluded that keeping a pet was just as effective in preventing heart attacks as avoiding alcohol or observing a rigid diet.

In an earlier experiment Sid Gerard of the University of Florida found that almost all of 300 patients selected at random showed a significant drop in blood pressure after watching an aquarium of tropical fish for half an hour twice a day.

Relaxation video tapes of an aquarium have been sold by the hundreds of thousands and some computer programs have incorporated such a scene as a "screen saver," used when the computer is on but not in active use.

No one is really certain why keeping a pet improves one's health, but it's pretty certain that it does.

One researcher, Clyde Harper of Cambridge, says it is simply the overall feeling of well-being that keeps you well. "When your dog lays his head on your knee or your cat curls up in your lap," he says, "their affection is non-judgmental and you feel good about it."

THE JEWISH FESTIVALS AND HOLY DAYS



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AMERICAN OIL
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IVES

SPORTS

Smoltz wins 20th; Padres beat Mets in Mexico

ATLANTA (AP) - John Smoltz became the first 20-game winner of the season...

The Rockies won for only the fifth time in 19 games at Riverfront Stadium...

Smoltz (20-6), who never won more than 15 games in a season before 1996...

After Orlando Merced's RBI single in the ninth, Mark Wohlers got two outs for his 30th save...

Rockies 8, Reds 4. Ellis Burks' two-run single broke open a close game...

Burks' single completed a three-run rally in the sixth that put the Rockies ahead 7-4...

Padres 15, Mets 10. When baseball came to Monterrey, Mexico, on a perfect summer evening...

Valenzuela won the first regular-season game outside of the US and Canada as San Diego beat New York...

His teammates provided the fireworks - literally - when they hit four home runs...

Dodgers 8, Expos 2. Eric Karros hit a three-run homer two pitches after catcher...

Tim Spehr misplayed his foul pop in the first inning...

Pedro Astacio (7-7) won his third straight decision, allowing two runs on nine hits...

Chad Curtis also had a three-run homer, pinch-hitting for Wayne Kirby in the seventh inning...

Raul Mondesi led off the eighth with his 18th homer for St. Louis...

Spehr committed his first error of the season in the first, when he ran to the dugout boxes...

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Orioles 14, A's 3. Orioles 5, Oakland 4 (2nd, 10). The Orioles, who erupted for 15 runs in the last three innings...

NATIONAL LEAGUE. East Division W L Pct. GB. Atlanta 75 46 .620 -

West Division. Los Angeles 65 57 .533 -. Cincinnati 59 59 .500 5. Chicago 59 61 .492 6. Pittsburgh 52 69 .430 13 1/2.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Indians 3, Tigers 1 (12). Sandy Alomar, in a 16-for-91 slump, hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 12th off Richie Lewis (3-6)...

West Division. Texas 70 52 .574 -. Seattle 62 58 .517 7. Oakland 60 65 .480 11 1/2. California 56 65 .463 13 1/2.

homers, giving host Boston its third loss in 13 games. Troy O'Leary, Wil Cordero and Tim Lincecum homered for Boston off Russ Springer (3-1)...

Indians 3, Tigers 1 (12). Sandy Alomar, in a 16-for-91 slump, hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 12th off Richie Lewis (3-6)...

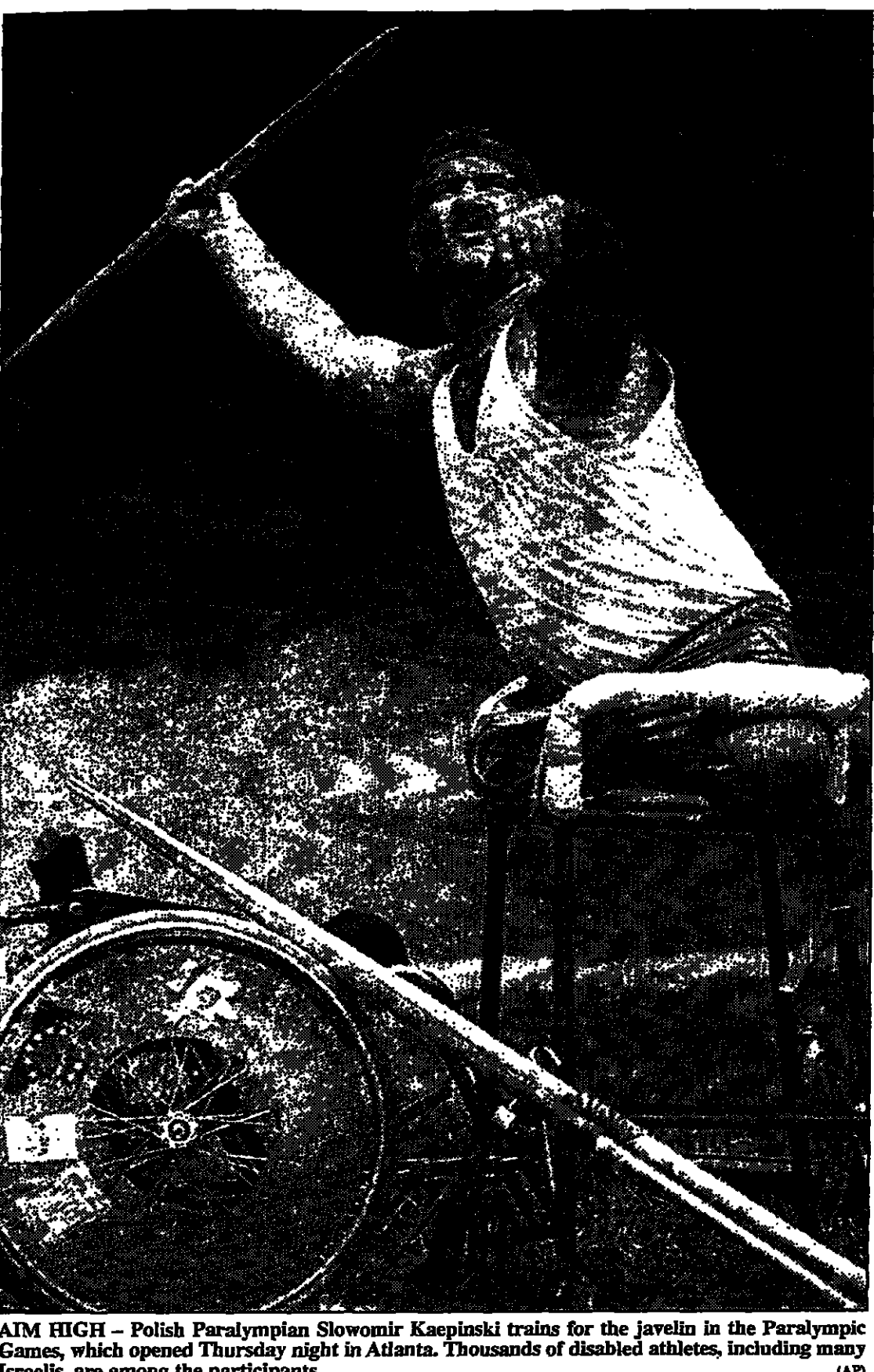
Paul Assenmacher (3-2) pitched a perfect 12th.

FRIDAY'S NL RESULTS: Houston 8, Chicago 3. Colorado 8, Cincinnati 4. San Francisco 6, Philadelphia 4. Atlanta 5, Pittsburgh 4. San Diego 15, New York 10. St. Louis 6, Florida 2. Los Angeles 8, Montreal 2. THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS: Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2. Atlanta 8, Philadelphia 5. Florida 7, Montreal 6. Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 2. San Francisco at Pittsburgh (ppd, rain).

Mariners 6, Yankees 5. Ken Griffey Jr. reached the 100-RBI mark, scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and threw out Cecil Fielder at the plate.

The Mariners, coming off a 1-8 homestand that was the worst in the team's 20-year history, fell behind 3-0 when Sterling Hitchcock (12-5) gave up five straight singles starting the first.

FRIDAY'S AL RESULTS: Baltimore 14, Oakland 3 (1st). Baltimore 5, Oakland 4 (2nd, 10). Milwaukee 9, Chicago 7 (1st). Milwaukee 3, Chicago 2 (2nd). Minnesota 6, Boston 3. Cleveland 3, Detroit 1 (12) innings. Seattle 6, New York 5. Minnesota 5, Toronto 4 (10) innings. Texas 5, Kansas City 3. THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS: Baltimore 18, Oakland 5. Only game scheduled.



AIM HIGH - Polish Paralympian Slowmir Kaepinski trains for the javelin in the Paralympic Games, which opened Thursday night in Atlanta...

Dawson: This will be my last season

MIAMI (AP) - Standing at a microphone to bid baseball goodbye, Andre Dawson uncharacteristically choked up in the clutch.

Dawson held a news conference Wednesday to confirm that he'll retire at the end of the season, and the words didn't come easily for the 42-year-old Florida Marlins outfielder.

He rubbed his eyes, sniffled, sighed and stopped several times to regain his composure, once pausing for more than a minute.

"I shocked myself," Dawson said later with a smile. "It just wouldn't come out. That's when I knew I was in trouble."

Dawson's wife, Vanessa, came to the rescue by joining him at the lectern and reading the first part of his statement.

"Some nine years ago, most critics thought that I was physically unable to continue as a professional baseball player," she read. "But I did. Now the time has come for me to bid farewell to my jealous lover - baseball."

The announcement was hardly a surprise; Dawson said last month he expected to retire this year. Now on the disabled list with inflammation in one of his long-troublesome knees, he hopes to play at least one more game.

Yet the acknowledgment that the end is near made Dawson want to cry.

"This much emotion I've never seen from him," Mrs. Dawson said. "I didn't think this would happen. But it's very hard. It's been a long time coming."

Despite 12 knee operations, Dawson, a probable Hall of Famer, has spent 21 years in the major leagues as one of his generation's greatest talents. He played for the Montreal Expos, Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox before returning to his hometown of Miami and joining the Marlins last year.

Dawson's announcement came one day after the Marlins traded another former National League Most Valuable Player, Terry Pendleton, to the Atlanta Braves.

The Florida media guide includes rules for election to the Hall of Fame, and next to them are Dawson's career statistics. He has 437 home runs, 22nd on the career list, and 314 stolen bases, making him one of four players with more than 300 homers and 300 steals. The others are Willie Mays, Barry Bonds and Bobby Bonds.

"For the people who didn't get to see him play in his prime - you missed something," Marlins general manager Dave Dombrowski said.

Even in his final season, the player nicknamed Hawk stands at the plate with a menacing look few can match. And as a right fielder, he has won six Gold Gloves.

Dawson reached the majors in 1976 and his first big-league hit came against Steve Carlton.

In 1987 he hit 49 homers and was the NL MVP with the sixth-place Chicago Cubs. He played in eight All-Star games but never reached the World Series.

"You can't have everything, right?" he said with a smile.

As Dawson put it, he pushed his body to the limit. Bone rubs on bone in both knees, and he faces replacement surgery in 10 to 15 years.

"What I'll miss the most probably is the postgame ice packs," he joked.

"He's been hurting for a long time," said Tony Perez, a Marlins executive and a teammate of Dawson's in Montreal. "To play through all that pain, that guy has to be some kind of man."

Dawson will travel with the Marlins the rest of the season. Tributes are already planned in Miami, Chicago, Montreal and Philadelphia.



CLASS ACT - Andre Dawson of the Florida Marlins announces last week that he will be retiring at the end of this season.

The Marlins hope to keep him with the organization, perhaps in the front office, but he's not ready to accept a job.

quality time and give my body a chance to regroup," he said. He'll continue to live in South Miami, where a street honors one of his 437 homers. It's called Andre Dawson Drive.

Dawson's Achievements

- An eight-time All-Star.
- Won six Gold Gloves as an outfielder.
- 437 career home runs ranks 22nd on the career list. Only one active player, Eddie Murray, has more.
- 314 stolen bases.
- One of four players with more than 300 homers and 300 steals. The others are Barry Bonds, Bobby Bonds and Willie Mays.
- 11,587 RBIs, 23rd on the career list.
- National League Most Valuable Player with the sixth-place Chicago Cubs in 1987, when he had 49 home runs and 137 RBIs.
- 1977 National League Rookie of the Year with the Montreal Expos.

No more ties in college football It's art imitating baseball, or vice versa

LOS ANGELES - Holy scholarship! It's August and college football already is making news, like when the Rose Bowl woke up and heard the cash register and joined hands with the bowl alliance.

Granted, it was a touching, historic moment, but chances are it's not going to have the biggest impact on college football games this season.

"So what is? Well, maybe some hints would help. What are the words college football coaches least like to hear?"

Quarterback controversy. Maybe you should hold off on making that down payment.

Some guy from the NCAA is here to see you.

They're bad, all right, but the actual answer is something far, far worse - tie game.

Yes, that's right, the dreaded non-won, non-lost football game, the original sister-kissing knotted deadlock of an impasse.

The games must have been the worst thing they could think of in college football because they went out and changed the rules this year in Division I-A just to make absolutely certain we've seen the last of them.

No longer will any poor coach have to answer why he went for the tie. Now he doesn't have a choice in the matter.

It's probably a welcome change. After all the other things a coach has to worry about in a game, "Should I run?" or "Should I pass?" or "Am I standing on the right sideline?" - it's one less decision to make.

Maybe that's why all the Pacific

10 coaches are in favor of the concept, especially Dick Tomey at Arizona, who in 1987 watched his team finish with four victories, four defeats and three ties.

In the last 10 seasons, Pac-10 teams have played 30 ties. That may sound like an average Father's Day, but it's not something they want to experience any longer on the college football fields across America.

It's a good thing the NCAA football rules committee waited until now to put the no-tie rule into effect or the athletic scholarships for Tie Detmer at BYU and Tiorone Wheatley at Michigan probably would have been revoked.

There is so much to think about. By eliminating ties, it's going to give more teams a chance to reach the six victories against Division I-A teams that are needed to be eligible for a bowl game.

And near the end of games, if a team scores to get within one point, you're also going to see a lot fewer coaches go for two-point conversions. In fact, probably nobody will.

Initially and from now on, OT will be OK.

Here's how the new, no-tie system works. There is a coin toss to begin the overtime. The team that wins the flip chooses the ball or to play defense.

The team with the ball gets it on the other team's 25-yard line. It gets one possession. Then it's the other team's turn at the 25-yard line. It also gets one possession.

If neither team scores, a second overtime begins.

If the first team with the ball

scores a field goal, the second team needs a touchdown to win or a field goal to send the game into a second overtime.

There is no clock. There is a great deal of excitement, however. At least that's the idea. Washington Coach Jim Lambright said he is a big supporter of the no-tie setup because he doesn't want people to think it's more entertaining to play Nintendo than to watch a college football game.

We're not sure if they've got Nintendo up there in Pullman yet, but Washington State Coach Mike Price is well aware of the level of excitement associated with overtimes.

Price was involved in five of them when he coached at Weber State in Division I-AA, which already had the rule. He may be getting calls from nine other Pac-10 coaches to ask what the heck to do.

The best advice is don't punt. The second-best advice is don't fumble. Price said what you'll probably see happen is the team that wins the coin toss will elect to play defense. That way, the team that begins on defense will know exactly what it needs to do when it has its turn with the football.

For instance, if the other team has scored a field goal, you need a touchdown to win. If the other team didn't score, all you need is a field goal. If the other team didn't know the new rule and left the field at the end of regulation, all you need is a couple of kicks to start the party.

"I don't if I was really a techni-

For Ripken and Gooden, it's a short jump from 'The Show' to Tinseltown

BALTIMORE (AP) - Few baseball players attract more zealous fans than Cal Ripken, whose tremendous popularity proved indispensable to screenwriters of the new movie, "The Fan."

Ripken signs hundreds of autographs each week, most times in the ballpark while dozens of kids and grown men feverishly call out his name. Some fans usually wait hours after the game just to say hello to Ripken as he leaves for the drive home.

The adulation is not without a price. It's virtually impossible for Ripken to spend a private night on the town with his family without someone coming up to him and asking for an autograph or a handshake.

When the Baltimore Orioles go on the road, Ripken checks into another hotel under an assumed name. That way, he knows he can at least make it to the lobby without being mobbed by fans.

Given his experience in the matter, Ripken had plenty of information for the author of a movie about the lengths a ballplayer must go through to deal with impassioned followers.

"The Fan," which opened in the United States yesterday, is a story about a baseball player (Wesley Snipes) who must cope with the twisted obsession of a psychotic fan (Robert De Niro). Ripken went to California last October to serve as the film's technical advisor.

"I don't if I was really a techni-

cal advisor or not. Actually, it was a series of many different interviews," he said. "They asked how it was to take my kids out in public, how the fans are in different cities and my relationship with baseball fans in general."

Phoef Sutton, who wrote the screenplay, said: "Talking to Cal Ripken gave me a real feeling of what it is like to be a baseball star. We always tell our children not to talk to strangers, and yet, strangers are always coming up to Cal and talking to him, and he responds."

Ripken is an old fashioned ballplayer, quite unlike the flamboyant athlete portrayed by Snipes. But Sutton still learned from the Oriole shortstop, whose popularity peaked last September when he broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played.

"Seeing how he copes with fame and the pressure of so many people counting on him and pulling for him to succeed, was invaluable," Sutton said.

Ripken didn't help write the screenplay, but he quickly recognized his input when he viewed the final script and some of the action.

"There were many, many things I saw in which I thought to myself, 'Hey, I said those words.' It was sort of a combination of several things we talked about," Ripken said.

Ripken has met and shaken hands with thousands of fans over

his 15-year career, but he has never had a serious problem with any of them. Most of the time, the experience is pleasurable for both.

He would like to believe that most baseball fans are good people. But he knows that there's always a chance of running into someone like the character played by De Niro, whose fixation borders on maniacal.

"To me, it's all been positive," Ripken said. "I don't think base-

ball players have a fear of fans, but there are some bad people out there, so you have to be careful."

Ripken, who requested that his name not be used in the movie's final credits, enjoyed the experience of watching a movie being made. He also got a kick out of his three-hour lunch with De Niro.

"We talked a lot about baseball," Ripken said. "I think maybe, through me, he was researching his character."

'Doc Hollywood'

DWIGHT Gooden made the move Thursday from the mound to the movies.

The New York Yankees right-hander signed a deal with "Lean on Me" producer Norman Twain for the exclusive movie rights to his life story.

And what a story it is: A teen-age phenom rockets to success in New York with the Mets, wins the World Series, then alcohol and cocaine drag him down.

That's followed by, in true Hollywood style, an improbable comeback with the Yankees, capped off by a May 14 no-hitter that completed his return to baseball. No word on who will play George Steinbrenner.

After a news conference announcing the deal, Gooden taped an appearance on "Late Show with David Letterman."

"I thought once I got myself together, got into a program and doing the things I needed to do, and got situated, I couldn't leave New York and get involved with the community as well."

"Over the years, we made a lot of jokes about you," Letterman told him, "made a lot of jokes about you when things in your life were so great. And to me, it's the sign of a real gentleman that you're able to come on here now and visit with us tonight."

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks advance FTSE at new high

WALL STREET REPORT

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Key Representative Rates table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table with columns for index name, last price, and change.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and others.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed in NY with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks advanced broadly Friday as the latest signs of a moderating economy helped the bond market, but a troubling earnings report in the computer industry pulled the technology sector lower late in the day.

Bonds posted strong gains, sending long-term interest rates lower, after the Commerce Department reported that construction of new homes and apartments fell 1.3 percent in July to the lowest level in four months.

The downward trend was consistent with the recent performance of most other sectors of the economy, furthering expectations the central bank will not feel compelled to raise short-term interest rates next week to head off inflation pressure.

rates can hurt stocks by raising corporate operating costs and slowing consumer spending. Technology shares were firm until late in the session despite Hewlett-Packard's 26% drop in third-quarter profit, reported after trading on Thursday, and a warning that some profitability problems could continue.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,577 up, 781 down and 813 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 333.27 million shares at the close vs 322.85 million in the previous session. The NYSE's composite index rose 1.74 to 355.96, and the Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 2.93 to 665.21.

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 index - at its lowest point of the year exactly one month ago - jumped to a new record close, fueled by favorable economic data, a strong bond market and an early wave of buying linked to the expiry of index options.

The blue-chip index closed 35.5 points higher at 3,872.9 for a gain of 62.2 on the week. TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed lower as profit-taking overwhelmed the telecommunications sector, which had rallied earlier this week. But trading was extremely thin.

The 225-share Nikkei average closed down 134.25 points at 20,834.00 but showed a net rise of 282.95 on the week. JOHANNESBURG - South African industrial shares received a last-minute boost from Wall Street to end a dismal day off their lowest levels. Golds were hit by a lackluster bullion price and limited interest. Currency worries, when the rand was bid at a new all-time low, initially depressed industrial shares but a firm Wall Street helped them revive a little at the end.

The overall index slipped 36.9 points to 6,527.4, down 138.5 on the week.

Dollar surges against mark CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar hit its highest level against the mark in nearly a month Friday, strengthening on intensified speculation that Germany's central bank will cut a key interest rate next week.

The dollar's strength against the mark also helped it advance against most other key currencies, but it ended lower against the yen as some traders sold dollars to lock in profits before the weekend.

Talk of a rate cut in Germany was the main theme in foreign exchange transactions, following remarks earlier in the week from influential officials of the Bundesbank suggesting interest rates might be lowered.

At the close in New York, the dollar traded at 1.4918 marks, up from 1.4854 Thursday and the highest level since July 18. Against the yen, the dollar ended at 107.70 yen, down from 108.10 yen.

Dole makes market queasy WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - The strains of Republican harmony emanating from San Diego over the past week may not sound so musical on Wall Street, where pro-business Republican presidencies are normally cause for celebration.

Putting aside semi-sarcastic, semi-serious barbs that a Republican already occupies the White House, the Republican National Convention has added some badly needed momentum to Bob Dole's underdog campaign, at least enough to prompt some members of the investment community to consider the implications of the former senator's proposed economic platform.

"A fax for you" advertisement for Israel Discount Bank, featuring a fax machine and the text "All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes."

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table of Israeli money markets including Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, Checks and Transfers, and Banknotes.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and others.

PARIS

Table of stock prices for the Paris market.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual funds categorized under 'Flexible' and 'Shares' with columns for fund name, unit price, and other metrics.

Table of mutual funds categorized under 'Company Bonds' and 'Foreign Currency' with columns for fund name and performance.

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for various goods.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices.

London metal futures

Table of London metal futures prices.

Mixed

Table of mixed market prices for various commodities.

Advertisement for CommStock Trading Ltd. offering futures, options, stocks, and mutual funds.

Advertisement for E & G Corp. listing various services and contact information.

Advertisement for US commodities with a list of prices and contact details.

Advertisement for spot market metals (US) with a list of prices and contact details.

Advertisement for New York metal futures with a list of prices and contact details.

Advertisement for London metal futures with a list of prices and contact details.

Government sets up council on narrowing social gaps

National Economic and Planning Authority shut down

DAVID HARRIS and Itim

THE cabinet on Friday approved the establishment of a Council for the Narrowing of Social Gaps and Eliminating Poverty.

In its weekly session, the government also decided to dismantle the National Economic and Planning Authority, in what Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called a "step toward reducing bureaucracy and government expenditures."

At the same session, the government approved the appointments of three deputy ministers.

The planning authority was one of the major bodies comprising the Economics Ministry, which was shut down in March under the Peres government.

Netanyahu said the authority's work was superfluous. From now on, he said, economic planning will be conducted through "already existing economic frame-

works."

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai told the cabinet that a council on social gaps is needed since the gap between the rich and poor has increased over the past few years.

Since the Finance Ministry first proposed its NIS 4.9 billion in budget cuts for 1997, Yishai has been pressing for a comprehensive safety net for poorer families. The council, whose head and members will be appointed soon, will look into causes of economic gaps and recommend appropriate solutions. The council has been given a long-term tenure, with an expected first-year budget of NIS 6 million.

Yishai blamed the deepening of the social gaps on the Labor gov-

ernment.

"The new government must stop the process begun a few years ago and act via the council in order to prevent the harming of the lower classes," he said.

Netanyahu said the country could not allow the creation of two societies. He said he had held discussions last week on ways to improve the long-term future of the lower classes.

Under one plan, personal computers would be given to the two lowest income groups. This would enable these families to become familiar with advanced technology.

Netanyahu noted that the establishment of the council would not harm the authority of the interministerial committee on labor and

social affairs.

The cabinet also approved the appointments of Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Aryeh Gamliel (Shas).

They will serve the entire four-year term, while the position of religious affairs minister will rotate every year between the two parties.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri's appointment as deputy health minister was also approved. Benizri had wanted to serve as deputy to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

However, Sharon repeatedly refused to accept the idea. As a result, a compromise was reached and Benizri will serve under Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

With the three appointments, the government filled the legal quota of deputy ministers.

2 escape from P. Tikva lockup

RAINE MARCUS

SHARON police have set up an inquiry into the escape from the Petah Tikva lockup yesterday morning of two prisoners who fled by smashing an iron bar through a wall in a small room next to the exercise yard.

The iron bar was probably pried from a manhole cover, police said, adding the escape was apparently not planned in advance.

Anwar Ibrahim, 25, of Nur A-Shams, near Tulkarm, had been sentenced to seven years for burglary, and had been in the lockup since August 12. Amar Mustafa, 21, from Tulkarm, had been in the lockup since August 8. He had been given five years for car thefts. Both were awaiting transfer to regular prisons after having been sentenced.

Their absence was noticed at 8:15. At 7:45, the two, together with 13 other inmates, had been taken by two police guards from their cells for exercise in the adjacent yard.

The lockup had recently under-

gone renovations, and adjacent to the exercise yard was a small room that was used during the renovations for washing dishes. The prisoners apparently snuck in the room and succeeded in smashing the through cement slabs in one of the walls, creating an opening to outside the lockup. No one apparently saw or heard anything amiss.

When the escape was discovered, Sharon police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Benny Kaniyak alerted forces in the area, and a helicopter, patrol vans, and all-terrain vehicles began searching the surrounding areas. But there was no sign of the fugitives as of last night.

A senior officer said there was no doubt the two police guards had been negligent but that the inquiry would decide their fate.

"There are usually strict control and supervision on the movements of inmates at the lockup," said Kaniyak. "We have asked for cooperation from the Palestinian Police to find the fugitives."

WEATHER

Forecast: Slightly cooler.

AROUND THE WORLD

| | C | F | C | F | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| Amsterdam | 14 | 57 | 26 | 77 | partly cloudy |
| Athens | 24 | 76 | 30 | 86 | clear |
| Bahamas | 21 | 70 | 30 | 86 | clear |
| Bangkok | 24 | 75 | 28 | 82 | clear |
| Berlin | 13 | 55 | 23 | 73 | partly cloudy |
| Buenos Aires | 10 | 50 | 34 | 93 | clear |
| Cardiff | 10 | 50 | 24 | 75 | clear |
| Geneva | 14 | 57 | 25 | 77 | partly cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 26 | 79 | 29 | 84 | clear |
| London | 13 | 55 | 24 | 75 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 12 | 54 | 24 | 75 | partly cloudy |
| Madrid | 28 | 82 | 24 | 75 | clear |
| Moscow | 14 | 57 | 25 | 77 | partly cloudy |
| New York | 17 | 63 | 27 | 81 | clear |
| Osaka | 12 | 54 | 24 | 75 | clear |
| Paris | 12 | 54 | 26 | 79 | clear |

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapayis Chance draw were the jack of spades, eight of hearts, nine of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Second indictment for inciting Crown Heights murder

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

FIVE years after Yankel Rosenbaum, a yeshiva student, was fatally stabbed during riots in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, a second man has been indicted on federal charges of inciting the murder.

According to an indictment unsealed last week, Charles Price is alleged to have incited a crowd of young black men in the Brooklyn neighborhood "to find and attack Jews."

That would have violated the civil rights of Rosenbaum by leading to his death on August 9, 1991.

Price, 43, is the second person charged in the Crown Heights incident.

Lemrick Nelson, now 20, also faces federal civil rights charges. Nelson was previously acquitted of murder in a state court in New York.

This is a case that now hinges on antisemitic speech, legal experts told *The New York Times*.

To convict Price, prosecutors must convince a jury that, by expressing antisemitic invective, Price can be held as responsible for Rosenbaum's murder as the man who stabbed him, the experts said.

If convicted, Price and Nelson could be sentenced to life in prison.

Rosenbaum was killed on the first of four days of riots between blacks and Lubavitch Jews that began after a hassidic driver lost control of his car and killed a seven-year-old black child, Gavin Cato.

The 1991 riots were the worst black-Jewish violence in New York in 20 years.

"There also has been lingering political unrest, as Jews have brought a civil suit against the city and its former mayor, David Dinkins. That suit has yet to be resolved."

"This [indictment] comes as a pleasant surprise, and certainly something that vindicates the position my family has taken all along," Rosenbaum's brother, Norman, told *The New York Times* in a phone interview from his home in Melbourne, Australia.

"But as far as I'm concerned, this means that out of the group of 30 who we believe attacked Yankel, and urged the attack, there are 28 people still capable of being indicted."

Internat'l conference to hear reports on deciphering genomes

JUDY SIEGEL

REPORTS on the deciphering of four genomes of micro-organisms during the past year will be presented at a joint international conference opening today in Jerusalem.

The Eighth International Congress of Applied Bacteriology-Microbiology and the Eighth International Congress of Mycology (study of fungi), will take place at Jerusalem's International Convention Center.

The genomes are the complete genetic codes of simple organisms containing at least 100 genes, each of which have a thousand base-pairs linked in a specific sequence making up their DNA. These breakthroughs are part of the worldwide effort to map the human genome.

The congress, held under the auspices of the International Union of Microbiological Sciences with support from the Hebrew University, will be attended by over 1,000 scientists from 57 countries.

Congress chairman Prof. Yitzhak Kahane of the HU-Hadassah medical school said that the discoveries - by American and German scientists - are very important, as they show that the techniques for deciphering genomes of simple organisms could work for analyzing human

genomes as well.

The genomes that were deciphered this year are of *Hemophilus influenzae*, *Mycoplasma genitalium*, *Mycobacterium vaccae* and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. So far, the complete genomes of only five genomes of micro-organisms have been deciphered.

Only parts of the human genome have been deciphered since the Human Genome Project began early in the '90s, and the work is expected to continue for at least another decade.

Deciphering genomes provides information helpful in the treatment and cure of diseases and understanding how living creatures function.

Kahane noted that until a decade ago, scientists thought they had conquered infectious diseases such as diphtheria, tuberculosis, cholera, pneumonia and diarrhea caused by bacteria.

But many new outbreaks have occurred in the developed world due to resistance to antibiotics and other drugs. Knowing the genome will provide extra ammunition in the fight against these diseases.

Israeli researchers have not deciphered whole genomes but are participating in identifying parts of them, Kahane said.



Rabbi Hirsch Minkowicz (left) and Rabbi Reuven Mintz stroll on a Hanoi street last Tuesday. The two newly ordained rabbis are on a seven-week mission to East Asia to help small and isolated Jewish communities strengthen their identities. (Richard Herzfelder/AP)

More than 1,000 quit smoking in Health Ministry contest

JUDYSIEGEL

OVER 1,000 smokers have kicked the habit in order to compete in the Health Ministry and Israel Cancer Association's "I Quit, I Win" smoking cessation campaign.

Three of them will today receive airline tickets for a trip abroad or free vacations in Israel from Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in his office.

The campaign, organized three years in succession with help from the Society for the Prevention of Smoking, the health funds, the IDF Medical Corps, the Pharmacists Association and the Israel Police,

was open to residents aged 18 and over who had smoked at least one cigarette a day for a year and who quit at least a month before the lottery was held on June 1.

Each contestant had to provide the names of two witnesses who could testify to these qualifications and be willing to undergo a medical test to prove that he or she had not smoked for at least a month.

The first prize winner will get a ticket to North

America on Air Canada (a smoke-free airline); the second prize is a tour package to Turkey; and the third is a vacation for two in Eilat.

According to a recent ministry survey, 28% of the adult Jewish population smoke, 11% have quit and 61% have never touched a cigarette. Men (32%) are more likely to light up than women (25%).

The smoking rate is especially high among men aged 25 to 44 of Oriental origin and with only a par-

tial high-school education.

The average smoker lights up 18 cigarettes a day. A third smoke 10 cigarettes a day, another third between 10 and 20 and the rest more than 21 daily.

The main reasons they give for their health-risking behavior is habit, enjoyment, nervousness and tension.

This year, 57% of the smokers tried to quit smoking and still want to try to do so.

Over 60% of the men want to quit, compared with 43% of the women.

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Demand drops for cantors worldwide

ON the eve of the High Holy Day season, there are not enough jobs in the Diaspora for all of the skilled cantors and prayer leaders.

Cantors in the Diaspora usually depend on the High Holy Days as their best money-making season.

The biggest cantor employment crisis has been noted in South Africa, where Jews have left in large numbers recently and synagogues have closed.

Many of the cantors there have moved here, and have been advertising for jobs in the religious press.

"For every small notice in the newspaper by synagogues searching for High Holy Day cantors there are dozens of cantors who respond," said Akiva Zimmerman, a researcher on cantors.

According to Zimmerman, the cantorial profession is in a serious crisis. "Cantors, both the mobile ones and the ones who have synagogues, are heard more today in concerns than in synagogues," he said.

Even in England, cantors are not given full-time jobs in synagogues, he said.

There is a similar phenomenon in the US, he added.

This problem is also apparent in Israel, he said, noting that in Tel Aviv there are only five cantors who are full-time employees of synagogues, though there are 600 synagogues in the area. (Itim)

האנא מן אלאל